The German Tribune

Hamburg, 26 November 1978
Seventeenth Year - No. 866 - By air

A WEEKLY REVIEW OF THE GERMAN PRESS

C 20725 C
ISSN 0016-8858

ASEAN five look towards EEC

DEUTSCHES ALLGEMEINES SONNTAGSBLATT

When Chinese vice-premier Teng *Hsiao-Ping visited Malaysia's capital* Kuala Lumpur, he took off his shoes like any practising Muslim before going into the modern state mosque — even though as a Communist Party official he is an atheist missionary.

The Chinese leader was visiting the grave of former Malaysian Prime Minister Abdul Razak, and he impressed the Malaysians with his respect for their country's history and religion.

Vietnamese Prime Minister Pham van Dong had put tactical considerations even further ahead of principles in an earlier visit. He laid a wreath at the Malaysian national monument and posed for an unusual photograph: with head bowed the communist from Hanoi stood in front of a gigantic realistic sculpture commemorating Malaysia's military victory over communist guerrillas.

These ideological concessions by communist leaders on their visits to South East Asia are based on sober political calculations. Both statesmen want to become political and economic partners of the community of South East Asian countries.

In this they are not only competing against each another, but also against other powerful competitors. Only a short while before these visits Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Filyubin visited South East Asia and performed his Cossack dance wherever he went.

He assured his hosts that the Soviet Union had always admired ASEAN as a community which guaranteed peace, freedom and neutrality in the area. In fact, not long before this Moscow had denounced ASEAN as a military alliance supported by the American secret service.

ASEAN, the community consisting of Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia and the Phillipines, is being courted from many sides at the moment. The suitors pushing their way into the region are trying to outbid each in promises.

But the bride is coy. The partner she really wants is not too eager, indeed expects to be courted himself. This is why the ASEAN countries are sending five delegates to Brussels on November 20. The five Foreign Ministers of the South East Asian states want to talk to the nine Common Market Foreign Ministers about the possibility of closer cooperation between the two communities.

Since the end of the war in Indo-China, the Asian heads of government have been seeking a new partner in a changed world. Their former patron, the USA, has already given a demonstration of what help they can expect. Yet none of the ASEAN countries want to move to the other side — into the socialist camp

The most obvious and nearest partner would be Japan, but there are still strong resentments in ASEAN countries towards the former occupation forces.

And that leaves Europe. Here the ASEAN countries believe they have found what they are looking for: technical know-how, industries eager to invest, trade partners and political allies in negotiations on world economic questions such as GATT or UNCTAD.

The EEC has yet another point in its favour. The nine European members are not a monolithic block wanting to impose their ideology on the Asians.

The ASEAN countries made advances in Brussels some years ago. For the past three years a group of high-ranking officials from both communities have been meeting regularly to discuss trade, industry, development aid and agricultural cooperation.

Up to now it has not got beyond the discussion stage. The EEC countries have been too preoccupied with their own problems to develop foreign policy perspectives.

The Federal Republic of Germany did not succeed until this year in widening the horizons of the Furocrats. Minister of Foreign Affairs Genscher, now head of the EEC Council, proposed a meeting between EEC and ASEAN Foreign Ministers, and to prove how serious they were, the Germans sent two politicians to Asia.

Minister of Economic Affairs Lambsdorff visited Singapore and Indonesia and Chancellor Schmidt stopped over there on his way back from his trip to Japan. The most important subject discussed on both visits was better access for ASEAN countries to the EEC.

Bonn's efforts in this direction are not merely philanthropical. Industry on the Rhine and the Ruhr badly needs taw materials from South East Asia. The five ASEAN countries supply over 80 per cent of world natural rubber and palm oil requirements, 72 per cent of the world's tin, over half of the spices and cocoa products, plus oil and fine wood.

Apart from this, the ASEAN countries are reliable investment and trade partners. Unlike many other developing countries, they have had stable governments for years and as a result have made considerable economical progress.

The 240 million people living in the ASEAN countries had a gross national product of over DM150,000 billion last year. German production firms invested *over DM170,000 million in the highly* industrialised city of Singapore alone.

In 1977 ASEAN even had a trade surplus with the EEC. The Asians ex*ported goods worth DM69 billion to* Europe and imported goods worth 6.4 billion deutschemarks — ten times more than the volume of trade between the ASEAN countries themselves.

With their raw materials, cheap and reliable work force and generous investment laws, the ASEAN countries believe their offer to the Europeans is a lucrative one. The community of Asian states expects a concession in return: the abolition of protectionist customs duties, especially for finished and half-finished goods.

The ASEAN countries do not hesitate to attack the EEC's protectionist attitude from a moral point of view, Singapore's Prime Minister Lee Kwan-Yew, one of Asia's best-known politicians, made this clear in a television talk with Chancellor Schmidt: "In order to keep one European in work, you put two or three people in developing countries out of work. A European out of work gets unemployment pay and suffers the stigma of being out of work at the most, whereas, our workers starve."

Verena Stern

(Deutsches Allgemeines Sonntagsblatt, 19 November 1978)



Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher and four ASEAN Foreign Ministers in relaxed mood at a reception during the Asian politicians' visit to the Federal Republic of Germany. They are (from left): Carlos Romulo of the Phillipines, Tengku Ahmad Rithauddeen of Malaysia, Upadit Pachariyangkun of Thailand, and Sinnathamby Rajaratnam of Singapore. (Photo: dpa)

Genscher calls for closer Asian ties

Süddeutsche Zeitung

The Federal Republic of Germany wants to intensify its relations with the five members of ASEAN, the South East Asian community of states, its Foreign Ministers have been told by Bonn Foreign Minister Genscher.

In separate talks with the Foreign Minister of Malaysia, Tengku Ahmad Rithauddeen, and of the Philippines, Carlos Romulo, Herr Genscher described ASEAN as a "political and economic stabilising factor." The positive development in the attitudes of a number of other states underlined the increasing importance of ASEAN.

Herr Genscher also had talks with the Foreign Minister of Singapore, Sinnathamby Rajaratnam, and the Thai Foreign Minister, Upadit Pachariyangkun. All five guests from South East Asia were officially received by President Walter Scheel.

The Ministers, with their Indonesian colleague, Mochtar Kusumaatmadja, who is arriving later, will take part in the first meeting between EEC and ASEAN Foreign Ministers in Brussels.

The Philippine Foreign Minister made special mention of the role Herr Genscher had played in bringing about these talks.

According to a Ministry of Foreign Affairs spokesman, Mr Romulo said the initiative was an important step towards more intensive discussions between the two regional communities. It was a good omen that the talks were taking place

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■ FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Final Gatt round begins in poor atmosphere

Frankfurter Allgemeine

The final round of Gatt talks in Geneva on tariff reductions and improved terms of trade takes place in unfavourable circumstances.

The nine EEC members consider themselves under pressure by the United States because it is still unknown whether countervailing duties for certain Community agricultural products will be lifted in January 1979.

The outgoing American Congress failed to pass legislation on the suspension of the duties. Washington still insists on further concessions from the Community over agricultural imports. Unfortunately, EEC members are still divided on this issue.

Washington also holds that Japan has not done enough to liberalise trade, and on this issue the Community agrees — for a change.

The other members of the Gatt Round complain about increasing "tricentrism" in the negotiations, meaning the special role played by the United States, the Community and Japan.

Carter's chief delegate, Robert Strauss, has had talks recently in Brussels and other European capitals, and he feels that the final Gatt Round in Geneva is taking place "under the most unfavourable conditions ever experienced in such talks."

Almost everybody is at fault over the difficult situation, the lion's share of blame belonging to Washington.

We must, however, distinguish between the efforts of the Carter administration and the attitude of Congress.

The administration suspected that its threat of further duties was unlikely to improve Europe's reserved mood on additional concessions for agriculture.

The White House therefore went all out to sway Congress to extend the suspension of countervailing duties for another four years.

These duties go back to an 1897 law and are imposed on imports America deems to be subsidised.

But the very term "subsidy" is highly controversial, and it would be beneficial if the present round of Gatt talks helped clarify it. In any event, the administration failed to convince Congress.

Some Community countries opposed the continuation of the Geneva talks under these conditions, but they were persuaded to continue technical and procedural talks — primarily by Bonn, London and the EEC Commission, in charge of negotiations.

President Carter has meanwhile written to the commission, informing it that he can settle the dispute with Congress over the re-introduction of countervailing duties if a "substantial" agreement is reached by 15 December.

In the American view, "substantial" means above all better chances for American agricultural exports to Europe. Thus is the final analysis the pressure on the Community has remained, though couched in somewhat less objectionable terms.

In this seventh Gatt Round, America has been primarily concerned with tariff reductions and better terms of trade for its agricultural products — an objective Washington has pursued from the very beginning in the post-war era.

Though the focal point of the talks is still tariff reduction by about 30 per cent for all products over a period of eight years, the results have become rather doubtful — at least since the monetary unrest of the past 18 months.

More important is the issue of a selective protective clause which, unlike previous arrangements, is to apply to individual countries, and clarification of the term "subsidy."

The mood in Congress must be taken into account when assessing America's interest in agriculture. American trade unions and business are exerting pressure on Congress to further curb imports, especially of certain consumer goods.

They oppose further tariff reductions and the facilitating of imports.

American farmers wants to step up exports and emphatically favour a new Gatt agreement.

The administration thus has to weigh industry's and agriculture's interests against each other.

Under these circumstances, the Administration can only condone tariff concessions for industrial products if it manages to squeeze out convincing terms for agriculture.

This makes it clear why Robert Strauss is so adamant in demanding concessions for American farmers to the point where he would rather forgo a new Gatt agreement than face Congress empty-handed.

America's decisive argument is its unequivocal and natural competition advantage in agriculture. Without EEC agricultural policy with its many protective devices, the US could sell more on European markets.

As a result, the French see behind America's implacability an attempt to destroy the Community's agricultural policy — particularly its subsidies for certain export goods. France has therefore opposed all concessions.

But Washington denies this, the administration having repeatedly said that it knows how vital agriculture policy is for the Community.

The EEC, on the other hand, denies that America has any reason to complain, pointing out that the EEC is the world's largest agricultural importer and that America exports five times as much agricultural produce to the EEC as the EEC sells to the United States. Half of America's trade surplus in this sector is due to business with the EEC.

Brussels could also point out that imports of goods subject to countervailing duties have risen more steeply than those of other products.

It is significant for Europe's position that views on this issue are at great variance.

While Fance and Italy oppose concessions because (due to the products concerned) they would be hardest hit, the other members are prepared to give in.

Bonn Economic Affairs Minister Otto Graf Lambsdorff is trying to meet America's demands as much as he can. Agriculture Minister Josef Ertl considers this unnecessary and favours only small concessions at the most.

There are already doubts in Brussels whether an agreement can be reached by 15 December due to the number of issues still open.

But no-one dares predict what will happen if the talks have to be continued in January. The first countervailing duties imposed by the United States would set a disastrous mechanism in motion, and the EEC would find it almost impossible to avoid counter-measures.

At the moment, everybody sees consolation in the fact that such talks always take on a dramatic note towards the end. But this time there could be a bit too much drama.

Heinz Stadlmann

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 11 November 1978)

New problems ahead for EMS founders

Chancellor Helmut Schmidt and his friend President Valery Giscard d'Estaing are facing new difficulties over their project for a European monetary system (EMS).

Until recently, they were determined to put EMS into effect on 1 January 1979, even if Italy, Britain and Ireland refused to go along.

Denmark and the Benelux countries, members of the Snake, seemed prepared to accept this course.

But Schmidt and Giscard considered going it alone with France and the Snake countries the second-best solution. Their objective is still to induce Italy, Britain and Ireland to join from the beginning through reasonable concessions.

However since 11 or 12 November there has evidently been a change in the general constellation. Italy's Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti seems to have achieved a breakthrough for his own strategy at the "small summit" in Luxembourg.

Luxembourg's Prime Minister Gaston Thorn expressed some doubts after the talks over whether it was advisable to proceed with EMS on 1 January even if the system involved only six of the nine Community countries.

This would mean that the "big two" — Schmidt and Giscard — would no longer be able to reject London's and Rome's demands (which they say are unreasonable) from a position of strength without jeopardising their historic plan as a whole.

Granted, Thorn expressed himself extremely cautiously because the Benelux countries, too, would like to implement EMS without unduly burdening themselves financially and without further inflation risks.

Andreotti's strategy is governed by two basic ideas which he recently explained to Chancellor Schmidt in Siena and to President Giscard in Paris: Italy, ranging from the Christian Democrats on the right all the way to the Communist Party on the left, is as pro-European as Germany and the Benelux countries. The establishment of EMS is seen in Italy as an important step towards European integration.

To leave Italy out because of its economic weakness could have a deep effect on that country's self-confidence — especially since Italy will have to make considerable material sacrifices over the planned membership of Greece, Portugal and Spain.

As Rome sees it, an EMS of France and the Snake countries would be tantamount to splitting the Community into haves and have-nots.

Based on this argument, Andreotti's most important demand is that the EEC budget be increased 150 per cent to create a financial balance in favour of the weak member nations.

This calculation is based on a study prepared three years ago by economists from all EEC countries, according to which only a financial equalisation of this size could close the gap between rich and poor Community regions relatively unchanged since 1958, and even then over a long period.

EMS can only mean a considerable progress for EEC integration if it becomes more than a mere technical measure to secure the most important export markets of the Federal Republic of Germany, France and the Benelux countries — in other words, if it demonstrates EEC solidarity.

This being so, Italy's demand for massive financial equalisation would be both justified and right if it were not for the British problem.

Prime Minister James Callaghan is aware of the advantages to his country of the envisaged common financing fund, but domestic considerations make him fear a rebellion by the left wing of his party.

Britain could in fact join from the very beginning and as soon as Italy is in a position to do so. Ireland would then, if necessary, be prepared to drop its historic tie with the British pound.

But should the Brussels summit decide in favour of financial equalisation it would be impossible to exclude Britain as a beneficiary, even if it did not join the European monetary system.

Whether it will be possible to find ways of drastically demonstrating to Britain the disadvantages of its notorious isolationism could well become the 64,000 dollar question for the Brussels EEC summit.

Erich Hauser

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 13 November 1978)

The German Tribune

Publisher: Friedrich Reinecke. Editor-in-Chief: Otto Heinz. Editor: Alexander Anthony. English language sub-editor: Peter Temple. — Distribution Manager: Georgine von Platen. Advertising Manager: Peter Boeckmann.

Friedrich Reinecke Verlag GmbH 23 Schoene Aussicht, Hamburg 76, Tel. 22 85 1. Telex: 02 14733. Bonn bureau: 56 Adenauerallee, 53 Bonn, Tel. 21 90 00. Telex 08 86398.

Advertising rates list No. 13 — Annual subscription DM 35.

Printed by Krögers Buch- und Verlagsdruckerei, Hamburg-Blankenese. Distributed in the USA by: MASS MAILINGS, Inc. 540 West 24th Street, New York, N.Y. 10011

All articles which THE GERMAN TRIBUNE reprints are published in cooperation with the editorial staffs of leading newspapers of the Federal Republic of Germany. They are complete translations of the original text, in no way abridged nor editorially redrafted. THE GERMAN TRIBUNE also publishes quarterly supplements featuring articles selected from German periodicals.

In all correspondence please quote your subscription number which appears on the wrapper, between asterisks, above your address.

■ HOME AFFAIRS

FDP battles to define itself at congress



The Free Democrats would like to be the special party of the young, of women, of the somewhat older, of all reasonable and thoughful people, of pro-Europeans and pro-Third Worlders.

But above all the party wants to be regarded as the guarantor of the constitutional state and of a healthy environment, and as the party that pays special attention to moderate use of energy. This is what the FDP would like to be to enjoy the esteem and support of as many voters as possible.

But in reality the FDP cannot live from these things alone. At the recent national conference in Mainz there was the usual in-fighting between the party's right and left.

The FDP resolution at Mainz on the treatment of extremists in the public servvce was especially vague, The answer to the central question of whether communists should allowed to teach was evasive and circumstantial. The statements in the party's children's programme — the first ever by a Bundestag party — were trendy and superficial.

On the other hand, the party congress was wise not to pass a resolution on the statute of limitations on Nazi crimes and other murders. It realised that this was a question of conscience and MPs decisions on the issue should not be prejudiced by a party resolution.

The state of the party at the moment can be best judged by looking at some of its leading personalities rather than at the resolutions produced at Mainz.

Party leader Genscher, who for years has enjoyed a reputation as a skilful tactician, suffered several defeats but was re-elected as party leader for the second timw — he has held the office since 1974 — with more votes than last time.

On the whole he got over the three days in Mainz fairly well, although delegates were heard to say that his greatest strength did not lie in his ability to smoothe over foreseeable difficulties or to handle them in such a way that they could be avoided.

Genscher's typical response is to present a certain result as desirable but not absolutely essential. He proposed Graf Lambsdorff a a new member of the party executive only to see his candidate rejected.

Some did not want Lambsdorff because there are already enough Rhinelanders in the party leadership. Others believed that three out of four Ministers on the executive was quite enough.

The small Land associations together are always stronger than the largest one, and so the comparatively unknown Bremen party chairman was elected in place of one of the few FDP politicians in Bonn on whom the party really depends.

It would be mistaken to deduce that the defeat of Lambsdorff was a demonstrative attempt by the party to strengthen its left wing. There were no signs of any change in the balance of power between right and left at Mainz.

Bonn Minister of the Interior Gerhard Baum, still reckoned a left-winger, was voted on to the executive, and Minister of Agriculture Ertl, a staunch member of the party right, was confirmed in office. Both received about a hundred votes.

Free Democrat president and Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher listens intently to Otto Graf Lambsdorff, the Minister of Finance, during the party's 39th annual congress. (Photo: dpa)

General secretary Verheugen got more votes and he was precisely the member of the party leadership who needed all he could get. It is not quite clear why Genscher has promoted Verheugen, hitherto national executive secretary, to this post. The whole operation could have embarrassing rather than useful results.

In both new and old office Verheugen is no more and no less than Genscher's personal representative. He has no power base of his own and is personally unlikely to be able to achieve much.

Verheugen's first political contributions for the party were weak. In the complex debate on extremists in the public service the congress seemed to be going in several different directions when the new general secretary proposed combining the executive's draft resolutions with proposals already shown to be unconstitutional by the conditions laid down by the Federal Constitutional Court.

A move of this kind is not a sign of leadership, but of giving way, of avoiding the issue, or of weakness.

Rudolf Strauch

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 15 November 1978)

Continued from page 1

under the chairmanship of the Federal Republic of Germany.

Mr Romulo also paid tribute to the Federal Republic's understanding attitude in the North-South dialogue.

Herr Genscher stressed to the Malayan Foreign Minister Bonn's interest in a "rapid solution" to the problem of the Vietnamese refugee ship now off the coast of Malaysia. According to official sources, Genscher asked his guest to make his contribution to a "humanitarian solution" of this problem.

Herr Genscher promised DM500,000 from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' humanitarian aid fund for refugees from Vietnam. The money is also to be used for immediate aid to the Vietnamese refugees on board the Hai Hong. A spokesman said the money would be made available to the United Nations Commissioner for Refugees. *dpa*

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 17 November)

Bavaria's new premier has no surprises

Newly-elected Bavarian Prime Minister Franz Josef Strauss has put his cards on the table of the Bavarian Landtag: less bureaucracy, more regional economic aid, more stress on vocational as opposed to academic training, and a clearer emphasis on federal policies.

Herr Strauss had already hinted at his plans within the CSU and in interviews.

The choice of these emphases was inevitable because they also the central points of precedessor Alfons Goppel's policies. The proposals from the ministries also came at a time when the old Cabinet, most of whose members were in the Goppel Cabinet, was still in power.

There was also no real need for the new Prime Minister to bring in his era with a resounding drum roll.

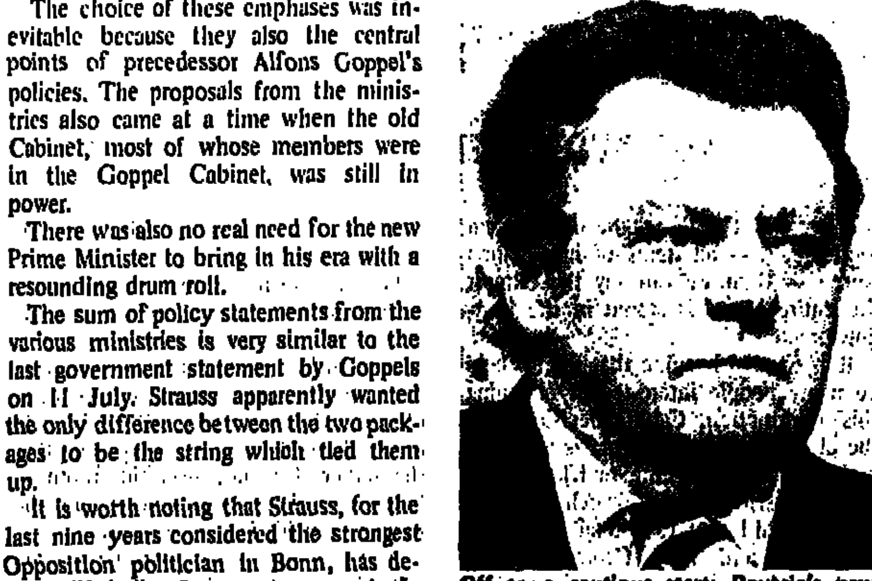
The sum of policy statements from the various ministries is very similar to the last government statement by Goppels on 11 July. Strauss apparently wanted the only difference between the two packages to be the string which tied them up.

It is worth noting that Strauss, for the last nine years considered the strongest Opposition politician in Bonn, has dealt with the Bonn government in moderate, businesslike tones.

Of course this could change at any time. Strauss's conciliatory start in his new office in Bavaria was clearly intended to have an effect on the CSU's sister party, the CDU, with its wide range of reactions. Many things could come of this: a reconciliation in all innocence with the CDU, a candidacy for the chancellorship for Strauss, who can now act as a statesman, or the founding of a fourth party.

Strauss's words on the federal principle are worthy of note because they could be of interest to the other Länder, to self-confident Land politicians in the CDU-CSU and to anti-centralistic Social Democrats and Liberals.

The Bavarian head of government was speaking in the spirit of the founding fathers of his party when he said that federalism meant more democracy, more political competition, greater participation by those directly affected in the political decision-making process, more political freedom, a greater distribution and a more effective control of power.



Off to a cautious start: Bavaria's new Prime Minister Franz Josef Strauss. (Photo: Marianne von der Lancken)

Strauss does not of course preach all these things as an ideology but places it within the "powerful regional movement in Europe" and offers to help "bring federalism out of its defensive attitude."

His renewed proclamation of the power of Bavaria's autonomous statehood was aiming at the "cooperative federalism" and "inter-federal agreements" with which the Länder have voluntarily brought themselves into line.

Strauss does not even shrink from curtailing the common expenditure by the Bonn government and the Länder which he did not invent but, as Minister of Finance, helped to force through years ago.

In Land policy, Strauss is moving in the tracks of his predecessor. Goppel was never a great believer in Montesquieu's principle that the state should be built up on a system of controls and mutual distrust between the powers.

His successor, in his view of history, puts democratic consensus before conflict. He is clearly talking from his own experience as a father when he mentions the intense competition in the sixth forms of the grammar schools.

He also talks of pension problems, the protection of the environment, energy policies and the need for nuclear power and scientific progress. He puts the blame for difficulties on the Bonn government and conveys the "credible certainty" that "the old can look with peace and the young with hope into the future."

There was no announcement of major actions by Strauss in his Landtag speech. Apart from a few wrong decisions in the field of regional reform, which he believes must be corrected, he defended the work, which was never really to his liking. Many problems still had to be looked into, he said.

His own perspectives are outward rather than inward-looking. Long passages of his speech were devoted to the institutionalisation of Bavaria in a federal European system, although this is difficult to conceive of at the moment.

The overall impression from his first government statement was that Strauss wanted to take a look around his bastion before starting off on new campaigns.

Helmut Hacker

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 15 November 1978)

■ DATA STORAGE

Hans Peter Bull, the man who questions the right to know

Hans Peter Bull, the Federal Republic of Germany's Data Protection Commissioner, is a man with very definite ideas on who should have access to what information.

In an interview recently he talked about the kinds of requests bodies made for data.

For example, the national insurance offices might want the registration office to tell them when someone had died, to avoid such blunders as the continued payment of a pension long after the pensioner's death. It is often be difficult to get this money back later.

Bull's initial response to a hypothetical request of this kind is to say: "They'll have to prove it's necessary first."

This restrictive attitude towards the use of computerised data by the authorities is what one would expect from one in his position. It also marks Bull's reaction to the draft registration bill proposed by former Minister of the Interior Werner Maihofer, which only a few months ago conjured up horrifying visions among the public of the total bureaucratic state.

In fact the draft bill contained few elements not already on the statute books for several years.

Bull's written comments on the draft show how useful it can be to apply the principles of data protection to legislation. His analysis shows that in some cases (which are far from exceptional) part of the information about people which the registration authorities have been gathering for some time is not used at all.

Bull made a telling point on an issue which raised a storm when the draft law was published (it has since been withdrawn.) The list of just under 200 kinds of information which the registration authorities are allowed to store included whether or not a citizen had been committed by a judge to a psychiatric institution.

The reason given for storing such sensitive information was that one functions of the registration authorities was to keep electoral lists, and they needed information on people denied the right to vote because they had been legally committed to a psychiatric institution.

The Data Protection Commissioner had an alternative suggestion. Bull worked on the assumption that all the registration authorities really needed to know was whether someone had the right to vote.

They did not need to know why anyone had lost his voting right. The principles of data protection required that when someone moved, the registration authorities in the new district should simply be informed of whether or not the person had the right to vote.

If the civil servant concerned wanted further details, he would have to ask for a special file, which he would only be allowed to see if he could prove that this was a legal duty. This proof would be difficult to provide.

The same method applies in other spheres. The registration authorities, for example, only need to know that someone's passport has been confiscated, that an application for confiscation has been made, or that the passport's validity has been restricted. But they do not need to know why.

The registration authorities need to know and to store the amount of an individual's tax-free income, but they do not need to know the specific family circumstances. According to Bull, the amount of data stored could be reduced considerably if this principle was applied.

Now that many people have realised to what extent electronic data processing can store details of their lives and circumstances, the issues of what information authorities gather and store and what they are allowed to pass on have become highly controversial.

Generally speaking, Herr Bull does not want to forbid the passing on of such information altogether. This would be impossible anyway because, on the one hand, the authorities need the help of the registration offices in carrying out their legal duties and, on the other, a company has a legitimate right to find out the address of a customer who has moved to another area without paying his debts.

As long as it is only a question of name, title, address and date and place of birth, and as long as it is clearly laid down what details may be passed on and for what purposes, then this ought to be allowed if the public service is to benefit from the advantages of electronic storage.

Bull's basic view is that the citizen is not served by being spared inconvenience at all costs, and that his function is to weigh the advantages of rationalisation against the dangers of a concentration of too many personal details in one place.

For example, Bull is far more restrictive than the now withdrawn registration bill about permission to pass on data to religious bodies.

In the draft law, the passing on of details about people to churches was allowed if they needed them for the "fulfilment of their legitimate tasks," and if sufficient data protection measures had been taken.

Bull argues that the phrase "fulfilment of legitimate tasks" is too vague and only basic facts about members of the church should be passed on.

Up to now the churches have also been given details about other family members. Bull says: "They should ask their members for these details." Exceptions should only be made if the release of this information is in the public interest, for example when a religious body is building a kindergarten and children of other religions should also benefit.

The fact that the public want measures to prevent the abuse of computerised data has now been realised even by those to whom these regulations are a hindrance to business. The Association of Address Publishers in Oberursel now guarantees that people who have their names put on a special list will not be pestered by unwanted advertising material from firms belonging to the association. The association calls the service, appropriately, the Robinson List.

Suspicious citizens suspect that this is itself a cunning method. The aim: to find out the addresses of those to whom it would be worthwhile sending anti-advertising literature.

Winfried Didzoleit

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 8 November 1978)

Cable TV: can it take up watching viewers?

The scene: a discussion with politicians on local problems. The Smith family is taking part — from its own living room by means of a television screen and a microphone.

The next day Mrs Smith transfers money from her bank account and finds out about cheap offers at local shops from the TV screen. Her daughter later tunes in to lesson five of a further education programme, and her son sends a letter via the screen.

Science fiction? The basis for a television system with such a wide range of uses has been created in West Germany by a decision by the Land Prime Ministers in May and pilot schemes are operating in four cities, including Berlin.

One of the most controversial areas of two-way cable television still has to be solved — data protection. Even the smallest possibility of gathering information about those taking part in two-way cable television gives considerable cause for concern, as a seminar for experts at the Berlin Institute for Research into the Future showed.

At the moment, it is only possible to find out how many people have watched a programme. In future, the headquarters of the two-way cable television system will know who has watched what.

It would be possible on the basis of this information to put together personality profiles showing that Mr X watches Panorama, rather than ZDF Magazine, prefers thrillers to programmes on science, and always switches off political programmes.

If we add to this Herr X's expressions of opinion, his participation in certain courses, and the things he orders from local stores — all items of information stored — then we can say that almost the entire Mr X is stored in the computer.

It is easy to imagine that there would be many people interested in obtaining this information. Cable television plus the abuse of electronic data is a combination which, according to Klaus Dette of the Institute for Research into the Future, could lead to a total state such as that described in George Orwell's novel *1984*.

The only way to prevent this, Jürgen Kanzow, ministerial director at the Ministry of Posts, told the institute, would be if cable television were run by the Bundespost.

The computers of banks, department stores and official bodies would be connected to central cable TV headquarters. The post office would not pass on the identity numbers of people using the cable services for finding out such generally available information as stock prices or details of special offers in shops.

Numbers would only be given over orders for goods or money transfers. "We believe that it would be possible to do this and still give data protection, because participants would know in every case that they have to give their identity," says Kanzow.

Personal identification means every participant automatically gets a number from the central headquarters and a code-word known only to him, which he must quote. Only when he has been identified by these two will he be able to use the system. "This will ensure that the father does not read the mother's letters and the son does not spend the money from his father's account."

And who is going to protect the cable TV viewer from the post office? Kanzow says: "If we assume in principle that the state is not interested in violating basic rights guaranteed by the constitution, then the principle of postal secrecy can certainly be accepted as adequate protection against data abuse."

The other experts could not go along with this. Professor Diedler, of the Society for Mathematics and Data Processing, said: "Cable TV would be ideally suited for control and research measures."

Researchers in the social sciences have already demanded that the laws on data protection should not be allowed to interfere with their work.

Professor Steinmüller, of Regensburg University Information Research Institute, said the system would have to be "sealed off against the outside" — there would have to be a precise number of users and responsibilities should be clearly laid down.

If not, it would in his opinion be unconstitutional: "If the number of users were not limited, you could not exclude the possibility of personality profiles being built up which could be so detailed that even the limits of paragraph one of the Basic Law ("The Protection of the Personality") would be overstepped."

Professor Steinmüller agreed with Bonn Commissioner for Data Protection Peter Bull and Dieter Baumeister of the Berlin Senate administration that there was a need for a data protection law especially for cable TV, as the present law did not provide adequate protection in this area.

Commissioner Bull warned against attempts to get around the data protection problem by getting participants to give their permission in advance.

"This method is now becoming a form of deception practised on a large scale."

He said the individual in a highly organised world had little chance of "turning down conditions which he has to agree to if he wants certain services."

Personality profiles or even partial information on people's political and social views were intolerable.

"I would be very suspicious of such data being stored and how it could be protected against it getting into unauthorised hands.

Continued on page 5

■ RELIGION

Protestant synod sums up: time for illusions over



The Fifth Synod of the Protestant Church of Germany (EKD) in Bethel was a synod of discontent which used more than four tons of paper. The mood can be summed up as: the time of illusions is over.

The 120 delegates, representing about 27 million protestants in West Germany, spent half their time in tough discussions and tedious deliberations before confirming that the EKD would remain part of the Geneva-based World Council of Churches. It would not, as passionately demanded by some critics, cancel its contribution to the WCC budget.

But it was said equally unequivocally that the EKD would see to it that the controversial special fund for the anti-racism programme was completely separated from the general WCC programme. The EKD still rejected racism, but it also rejected violence.

The special fund, financed solely from donations and used by the Geneva head office according to political criteria and without consultation with the member churches to selectively support a number of "liberation organisations," has caused dismay and confusion both among German Protestants but those in other countries.

If the synod had its way, the WCC would in future devote itself more to the tasks for which it was created: establishing ties between the world churches, promoting theological discussion and providing aid where needed (including combating racism) but without promoting violence.

In a nutshell: the WCC should revert to the original tasks in which it has proved its worth during its 30-year history, its function being as an instrument of the member churches rather than an independent organisation.

Two committees spent three years going into the topic of the synod, Living and Educating — To What End?, coming up with dozens of statements and proposals.

For example: "Children and juveniles experience and suffer the controversies of social reality and of the educational institutions. Their value is on the one hand measured by the yardsticks of the employment system and its status and career exigencies, characterised by school marks.

"On the other hand, the young people's expectations and their attitudes are marked and influenced by criteria and guiding principles as well as by promises of freedom, giving rise to false hopes.

"Many find it hard to cope with such tension and are of necessity confronted with disappointment.

"It is thus understandable if minorities in their search for a way out blindly embrace religious, *weltanschauung* and political groups."

Another example: "Systems help us settle conflicts. They are justified in all instances where they lead to more love, freedom, justice, co-determination and happiness for all; and they gain authority in direct proportion to the extent to which they serve these goals.

"The synod of the Protestant Church in Germany asks whether the present situation in the child-rearing and education sectors provides opportunities to realise this educational tenet."

Although the formulation "crisis of the educational system" has been deleted, the synod left no doubt that it is exactly that.

The EKD is aware of the fact that it is expected to speak clearly and without subterfuge. It is also aware that the changing values of the past few years have induced an ever-increasing number of people to forgo marriage and children.

Depicting the causalities, the synod called on the churches to give more people the courage to marry and have families. It demanded that Christian values be reintroduced in education and that the churches operate more schools, providing an alternative.

The main speaker, Tübingen theologian and educationalist Karl Ernst Nipkow, said education should not be equated with a right to a career as a value in its own right.

But how can this be explained to parents told for years that the welfare and future of their children lay in a secondary school and university education with the income and status that go with it?

The mixture of an aggressively competitive mentality and lethargy in overcrowded secondary schools and the universities governed by the *numerus clausus* and the resignation of university students without hope of a job speak for themselves.

Of course, the synod called for an upvaluation and further development of our present-day Cinderella *hauptschule* (taking children through the ninth grade) and vocational schools.

The synod has thus most assuredly provided food for thought. But there was no clear statement that children must no longer be the guinea pigs of ideologically motivated reformers, but must have a right to an education in keeping with their abilities and a future satisfactory in human and occupational terms.

The Church, Society and State committee tabled a motion reading: "The synod welcomes both the efforts on behalf of basic values and the fact that the Church has been able to contribute to the relevant debate.

"At the same time, the synod makes it clear that the Church is no supplier of basic values for political and social requirements of the day."

Though the Bible advocates that speech be unequivocal, the lukewarm and the clever of today abide by the principle: "Wash me but do not wet me."

Henk Ohnesorge

(Die Welt, 13 November 1978)

Continued from page 4

authorised hands. There are so many weak spots."

This objection applied to both public and private cable stations.

Professor Kabel, of the International Institute of Media and Development in Berlin, pointed out another danger: the manipulation of cable TV users by interest groups: "The possibility of making special offers over the network to strictly defined groups of users is a violation of of privacy and an affront to human dignity."

There had to be democratic control, even of the pilot scheme and it seemed doubtful whether this would be possible with the scheme envisaged by the Berlin Senate.

The seminar concluded that data protection was going to be a major issue in cable TV. Sociological research on cable TV, according to Rolf Kreibich of the Institute for research into the Future, is unpopular in Bonn and Berlin. A decision of principle on its financing has no yet been taken.

Marion Kern

(Der Tagesspiegel, 14 November 1978)

Jewish Institute aims to award doctorates

The Jewish Theological Institute to be opened in Heidelberg next year will be the first private institution of university status in West Germany, Baden-Württemberg Prime Minister Lothar Späth and Werner Nachmann, chairman of the Central Council of German Jewry, announced in Stuttgart.

There is no similar training institution in the German-speaking world.

After its development phase, the institute is to accommodate 60 to 70 students who will later work as German-language rabbis and teachers.

The institute will be authorised to award doctorates when it has demonstrated its standards.

The annual operating expenses of DM800,000 are to be paid in the ratio of 30 per cent by Bonn, 25 per cent by Baden-Württemberg and 45 per cent by the other Länder. The Central Council of German Jewry will finance the initial investment.

Reuter

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 9 November 1978)

Tax contributions drop alarms church leaders

"We are about to become a church of rich taxpayers," says Nikolaus Becker, a clergyman of the Rhineland Protestant Church.

In Hanover, Rev. Wessel Nuyken of the Protestant Church of Germany, says: "In practical terms, we are increasingly departing from the principle that all members of the community should bear a share of the Church's burdens."

The Catholic Church, too, is dismayed that fewer and fewer community members pay more and more church tax.

Two in three congregation members no longer pay any church tax at all.

The tie-up between church tax and income tax is now boomeranging. Any tax reform raising the non-taxable part of the income or other deductibles automatically harms the financial position of the churches.

Since the introduction four years ago of a taxation system permitting child subsidies to be deducted from income tax and calculating the church tax by the income tax paid on that basis, church revenues have diminished drastically and many congregation members nothing to the church.

Speaking in Düsseldorf recently, Rev. Becker said: "Every increase of child subsidies is at the expense of the churches."

The forthcoming tax reform will again reduce the number of church tax payers.

The churches are particularly concerned about the trend in fiscal policy to provide state revenues increasingly via turnover tax rather than income tax.

This shift is of paramount importance to them because they only get a share of income tax.

This development is having a considerable financial effect on the churches. The Protestant Land churches alone estimate that their 1979 revenues will fall by DM350 million as a result of the tax reform. The Catholics will suffer similar losses.

But most church authorities intend to use reserves to maintain their services. At present there is no intention to lay off employees. Economising will primarily centre on new construction, although Rev. Nuyken stresses that "everything will depend on how quickly the losses can be made good." This obviously depends on economic growth and the growth of wages and salaries.

The condition of church finances obviously cannot leave the state indifferent. The churches have taken over many social functions which would otherwise devolve on the state.

But above all, the churches, with their 500,000 staff members, are Germany's largest employers; redundancies would obviously affect the labour market.

Some church authorities have already said that they do not plan to increasing the church tax rate, reduced only four years ago.

They have once before seen a wave of people renouncing church afiliation due to the tax burden.

There is a good reason for the regulation that church tax can be cut if it amounts to more than four per cent of income.

There is some talk now of a "minimum church tax" — a procedure already practised by some Protestant churches in northern Germany: Those paying any income tax at all must pay at least DM7.20 to the church.

There is also some discussion on whether church tax should be related to income rather than income tax.

The churches are not only interested in the money because they view church tax as an expression of belonging to the congregation. They hold that the very fact that such tax is paid indicates the taxpayer's attitude towards his church.

Those who do not avoid church tax by renouncing their church afiliation have to all intents opted for the church.

But as things stand two of three congregation members no longer pays into church coffers.

Peter Rudolph

(Münchner Merkur, 7 November 1978)

■ BUSINESS

Clashing views on the corrugated economy

Süddeutsche Zeitung

The change in the structure and rhythm of West German economic growth is becoming increasingly obvious, causing some to call it a "corrugated iron economy" because the ups and downs of the typical sinus curve are becoming flatter all the time.

During the boom years of the 50s there were still annual growth rates of up to 13 per cent. And even in the 60s there were considerable growth periods of nine (1960) and eight per cent (1969).

But since the early 70s growth rates have fallen and have now settled around 3.5 per cent, already considered an upswing.

Chances that industrial output this year will rise by more than two per cent have improved lately: the first quarter saw a plus of 0.9 per cent over 1977, developing into stagnation at 0.1 per cent in the second quarter, with industrial output increasing by 3.8 per cent in the third quarter. Based on the latest data, it is likely that industrial output will show a 2.5 per cent increase this year.

For the first time in Germany's post-war history growth impulses no longer come from foreign trade but from domestic demand, largely stimulated by government spending and credits.

Despite handicaps, business profits show improvements. But so far there is no evidence that the exceptionally strong impulses from government spending have triggered an upswing. If this were the case, growth should be able to rise on its own momentum.

Professor Claus Köhler of the Bundesbank considers a forecast to this effect for 1979 realistic, while Bundesbank President Emminger is somewhat more cautious.

Daimler-Benz Chairman Professor Zahn has again stressed that an upswing can only be achieved if changed fiscal policy allows private investments more profits.

Without tax relief for the manufacturing and investing industry there can be no upswing that could ride on its own momentum.

The German Trade Union Confederation (DGB) believes the opposite: the right course is not tax relief for business but stepped up government spending with a direct effect on employment. As a result, increased government spending must be at the heart of budget considerations for next year.

The DGB considers Bonn idea that improved profits and above-average growth of private investments will produce sustained growth to be wrong.

It seems evident that the unions are about to apply their "buying power theory," used in collective bargaining from the very beginning, to economic policy as well.

This theory can be refuted by the basic and unquestionable axiom that growth without investment is a contradiction, because investment is tantamount to growth.

If economic policy uses the financing of consumption as a lever, profits and hence the ability to invest can only increase via higher prices.

That this does not work today is clearly shown by the fact that industrial prices have not risen this year despite the continuing rise in per piece wage costs in the first half of this year.

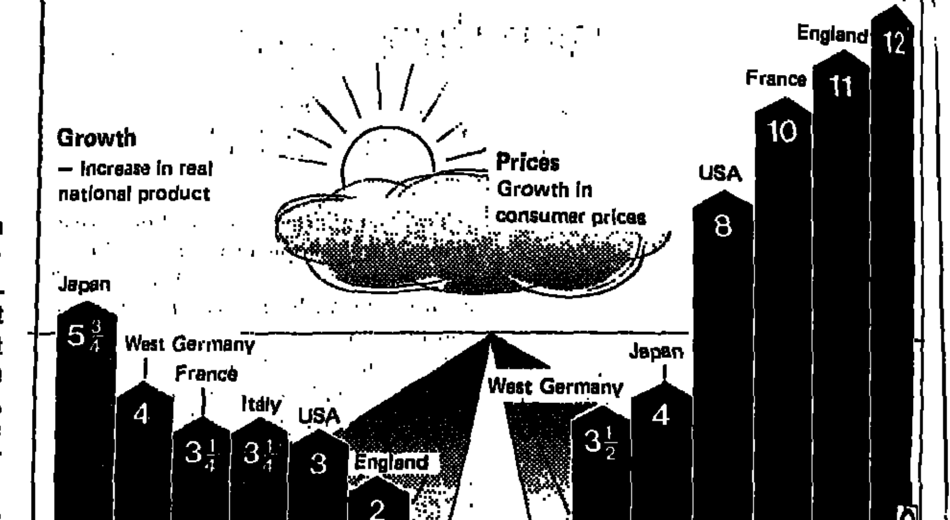
The rapidly increasing import volume of finished products due to the massive deutschemark appreciation (these goods account for more than half of total imports) acts as an insurmountable price barrier in competing on the domestic market.

Even calculations by the DGB's Economic and Social Affairs Institute show that net wages and salaries have risen by 4.3 per cent (in real terms) over 1978. By the same token, the consumer price index was up only 2.1 per cent in October.

The inflation rate is even smaller for retail prices, which, projected for the whole year, amounted to less than one per cent in the third quarter.

Viewed in this light, this year's nominal wage increases were almost the same as the increase in buying power in real terms.

We have not had such a situation in a long time, showing, as Bundesbank President Emminger recently said, how successful a policy of moderation in wage deals can be — for all concerned.



A slight acceleration of growth is expected for next year. The construction industry is expected to do brisk business. In fact, this industry has reached the limits of its capacity, both in labour and technical equipment.

There are also clear signs that investments are picking up, the impulses having initially come from the automobile boom, construction, and the backlog of modernisation requirements.

Some economists conclude from the increasing volume of construction orders by the manufacturing industry that next year will also see some major investments for expansion.

The development of German investments abroad, which reached a record DM2.7 billion in the first half of this year, is taken as evidence that Germany's position as a site for labour-intensive industry has deteriorated considerably, wage costs being higher than in any other industrial country.

The demand for a gradual reduction of weekly working hours to 35 is part of the basis of the trade unions' wage policy, as borne out by bargaining in the iron and steel industry.

Heinz Oskar Vetter, as president of the European Trade Union Federation, recently urged the governments of the European Community to reduce working hours by 10 per cent within the next four years.

It was interesing, he said, to remember that since the 1880s weekly working hours for men in German industry had been continuously reduced by about 20 minutes a year.

Projecting this trend, he said, we should have a 35-hour week by about 1984.

The present trade union demand for a reduction of working hours by four in the next four years would be triple the long-term trend.

Those who consider such a rapid reduction of working hours possible must, by the same token, not object to the introduction of modern technology and automation.

What will be the effect of the new monetary policy? The all-out move in support of the dollar can mobilise a maximum volume of 30 billion dollars in hard currencies. This corresponds exactly to the increased dollar circulation outside the United States in the next six months, fed by the American balance of payments deficit. As a result, many experts consider it possible that the dollar might have a new attack of the vapours as early as December.

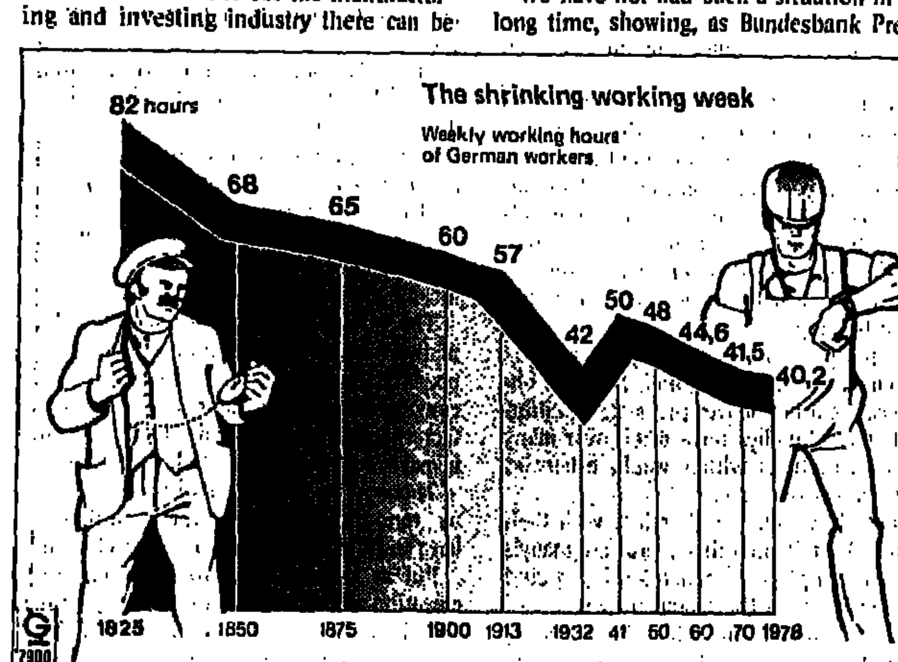
There is yet another aspect: according to most US and other experts — not including the Washington administration and the Federal Reserve Bank — America is headed for a recession. This would be the end of the longest post-war boom period in the US.

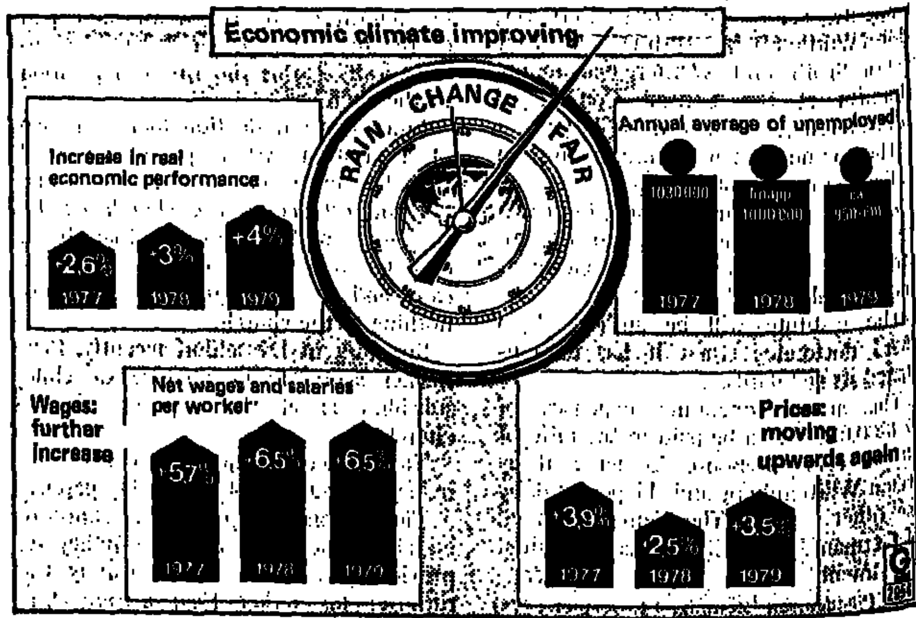
Some monetary policymakers expect this to improve the international position of the dollar. But this is an unfounded hope since, experience is anything to go by, the acute danger of unemployment will quickly induce the administration to take its foot off the brakes.

And the anticipated oil price increase at the end of the year will not exactly improve America's balance of payments position.

Walter Slotosch

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 11 November 1978)





■ FUEL

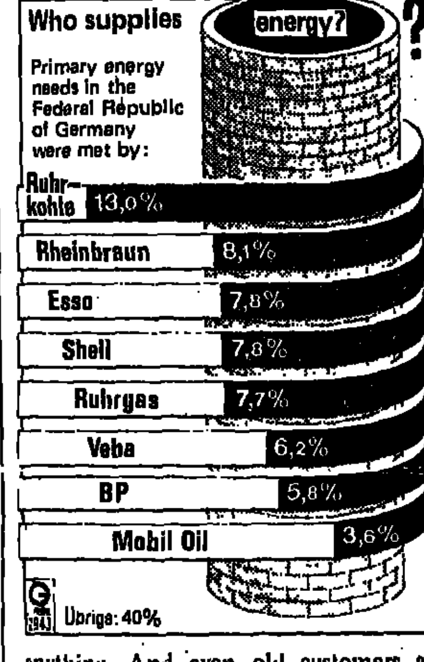
Industry calm – but oil prices rising

The paralysis of Iran's oil output is no reason for concern, says the oil industry. But prices are going up and this is certainly something to worry consumers.

The price increases are not only attributable to the Rotterdam market, which is teeming with speculators. They are also going up in West Germany.

Refineries have been charging DM20 a ton more for light heating oil since the strike wave hit Iran's oil industry. And those wanting to buy petrol from German refineries will have to pay even more.

And it is not certain that a buyer willing to pay cash will be served at all. Says a Ruhr area dealer: "Unless you're a steady customer they won't let you have anything. And even old customers are rationed."



A glut has turned into a shortage almost overnight, and oil-based products are in short supply and becoming expensive.

To the motorist's surprise, however, filling stations are charging a pfennig less per litre. Even while the flow of oil from Iran was threatening to peter out, filling station owners were instructed by the oil companies to reduce prices and advertise this conspicuously.

But this is the result of decisions made before the unrest in Iran. The dramatic decline of the dollar, and the consequent reduction of crude oil prices for shipments paid in deutschemarks, induced the major oil companies to lower prices in a bid to reconquer lost market shares.

The whole thing was an error bound to be rectified soon. Independent filling stations not only have to pay considerably more for their fuel, they are also in danger of not being supplied at all.

In Rotterdam, where much of the fuel for the undercutters is produced, the international oil giants and their refineries guard their stocks to be able to supply their own filling stations should a shortage arise.

But there is no plausible reason for a shortage. Although Iran is one of the world's largest producers of crude oil (ranking after the Soviet Union, Saudi Arabia and the United States), its share in world output is less than ten per cent.

This would be a quantity impossible to compensate for if all oil-producing countries were working to capacity. But this is not the case, and any drying up of the Iranian oil can easily be offset by opening the tap wider in other oil fields.

In purely arithmetical terms, the Saudi Arabians alone are almost in a position to make up for Iranian oil. At present they produce seven million barrels a day, an annual output of 350 million tons. They are thus below the self-imposed limit of 8.5 million barrels a day and far below their output capacity, estimated at 11.8 million barrels by the trade magazine *Petroleum Intelligence Weekly*.

This means Saudi Arabia alone could replace all but one million barrels of Iran's output.

The real question is whether the Saudis are prepared to make an all-out effort and how soon they can provide the additional oil.

Experts see no problem in making Saudi Arabian fields yield a daily 10 million barrels within a few weeks. To achieve a greater output would take longer.

But even the greatest pessimists do not believe the oil flow from Iran will dry up completely and for a long period.

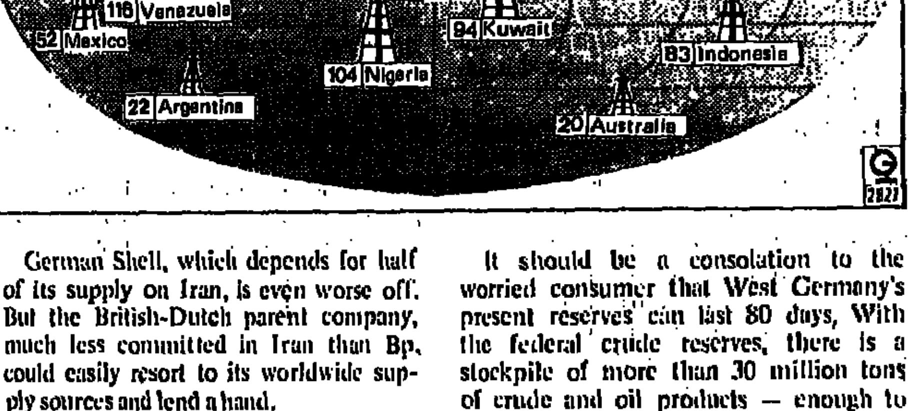
Even a week or so ago, when it was reported that Iran's entire oil export had broken down, the Iranians were still pumping between 700,000 and 1.1 million barrels a day into tankers.

Regardless of who is in power in Iran, no-one can afford to stop the oil flow on which the country's export earnings depends.

The Shah's policy of using oil revenues to build up a modern industrial country is unlikely to be changed by his potential successors.

Only the period until it is clear who wields power in Iran is likely to be critical for the West German oil supply. But while Iran is racked by strikes the oil flow will be slower and the big customers anxious about their supply. This applies particularly to multinational British Petroleum, which buys 40 per cent of its global oil requirements from Iran.

German BP, which planned to use about five million tons of Iranian crude in 1978, has therefore been affected. Considering its total crude requirements for refineries of 13.2 million tons, Iranian oil amounts to about 38 per cent.



German Shell, which depends for half of its supply on Iran, is even worse off. But the British-Dutch parent company, much less committed in Iran than Bp, could easily resort to its worldwide supply sources and lend a hand.

German petrol and heating oil prices are, however, not only threatened by a drying up of Iranian supply and the temporary shortages. The petrol price on the Rotterdam market rose much earlier. In fact, its inexorable rise has more than made up for the dollar erosion.

If America's stabilisation experiment proves successful and the dollar continus to climb, Jimmy Carter's policy will have a worse effect on the pockets of German consumers than the trouble in the Persian Gulf.

But by far the biggest danger to prices in Germany lies with the consumers themselves. Their heating oil tanks are only two-thirds full at present, and this is not normal for the time of the year. In the past, private reserves at the beginning of winter have always been higher.

If this need to top up is aggravated by hoarding and if — as in the crisis winter of 1973-74 — consumers top up their tanks with even a couple of hundred litres to make sure they are full, it will be impossible to stop the price spiral.

Although the oil industry frankly admits that it would like to increase the price of light heating oil slightly, it stresses that it is not interested in a wave of speculation. But this can best be countered by a clear analysis of the situation, which the oil companies have shirked so far.

Instead, they pin their hopes on a swift normalisation of conditions in Iran. But the oil-bosses cannot put their heads in the sand for much longer.

It should be a consolation to the worried consumer that West Germany's present reserves can last 80 days. With the federal crude reserves, there is a stockpile of more than 30 million tons of crude and oil products — enough to cope with a total drying up of Iranian supplies for almost two years, even if there were no substitute for Iranian oil.

It is, however, possible that stockpiling would initially lead to a shortage.

By 1 December, when the Oil Stockpiling Association becomes operational, it will have to obtain another 1.8 million tons of light heating oil.

This means the association could vie with the consumer for oil. This could only be prevented if Bonn released some of its own stockpile for consumption.

There is a precedent: when the pipeline for crude was closed by a strike in France, jeopardising supplies in southern Germany, Bonn released 100,000 tons from stockpiles.

By far the best guarantee of supplies is the oil countries' greed for foreign exchange. Now that they are getting "better" dollars for their oil, they have no reason to cut output as long as there are buyers.

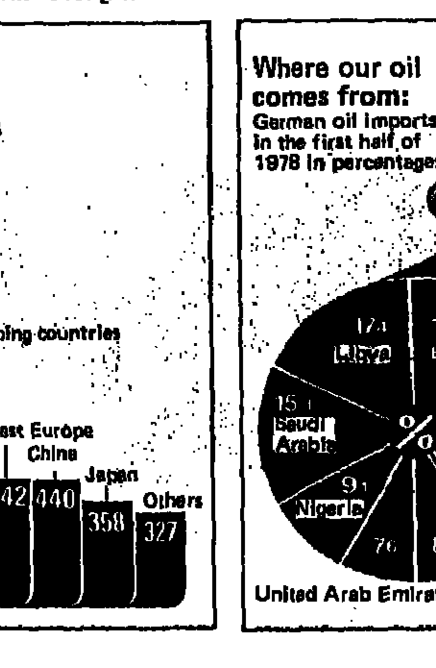
The cutting off of supplies from Iran has already markedly improved the position of other Opec countries. If people are worried about their supplies, they don't haggle over the price.

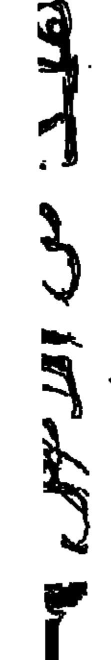
The Opec countries thus have a fair wind for the forthcoming round of price fixing. The longer the unrest in Iran the easier will it be to get their prices.

In fact, many Western oil executives already doubt that the Opec countries will wait until the beginning of next year to increase prices.

Heinz-Günter Kemmer

(Die Zeit, 10 November 1978)





ENVIRONMENT

Helgoland compost makes Kuwaiti lupins bloom

A 1,000 square meter carpet of moisture-retaining Helgoland compost obtained from garbage is to be used to grow lupins in Kuwait.

And next year it is intended to export 2,000 cubic meters of compressed garbage compost from the North Sea island to the Arab sheikdom to make the desert fertile.

For Karl Meyer, 50, an entrepreneur from a small town near Stade, commissioned to relieve the vacation island of its garbage problem. the aim is not refuse removal but refuse recycling.

Helgoland has 2,500 permanent residents and receives 750,000 tourists a year, As a result, the island produces more garbage per head than Hamburg, Hanover or New York.

Muck Meyer, as he has been nicknamed, built a DM1.5 million plant where garbage is separated into glass, paper, cardboard and bulky items.

Paper is compressed and transported to Brunsbüttel on the mainland. Glass goes to a glassmill in Nienburg, where it is turned into new glass products, using 50 per cent old glass.

Almost half of Helgoland's garbage can be turned into compost. It is first chopped by machine, mixed and then compressed.

After two to three weeks of decomposition, the compressed garbage provides excellent compost and is profitable when exported to desert countries.

According to Muck Meyer's registered patent, 10 cm thick compost tiles are buried about 30 cm below the desert sand. The compressed garbage absorbs the water from artificial irrigation, providing a moisture reservoir for plant roots. Without the tiles, twelve time as much water would be needed, due to evaporation and seepage.

Herr Meyer lives with and from other people's garbage. His home and his service station are on top of a garbage dump over which the grass has long grown.

A model of a Wischhafen holiday centre takes pride of place in his home. His ultimate aim is to convert the 62-acre garbage dump behind his home, once full, into a recreation area with hills, footpaths and ponds for the preservation of wildfowl.

Another garbage dump in Hemmor, which has already been cultivated, is to provide a pasture for sheep.

Herr Meyer, who lectures on garbage at Bremerhaven University, has recently employed three newly-graduated engineers.

One of them, Renate Kloppenburg, is experimenting with plant life on the disused garbage dump in Hemmor using garbage compost.

Says Muck Meyer: "You cannot make progress in garbage recycling without experiments."

Martin Jank

(Die Welt, 8 November 1978)

Expert warns: 'We can't handle oil disaster'

The Federal Republic of Germany is neither organisationally, technically nor scientifically able to cope with major oil pollution of its shores, Professor Sebastian Gerlach, head, of the Oceanographic Institute, told politicians in charge of environmental, protection in the four North German coastal states in Bremerhaven on 2 November.

Professor Gerlach said there was a lack of information on threatened regions and even methods for roughly assessing the toxic effects of oil on marine life were little known in West Germany.

There was above all a shortage of effective oil skimming devices for use in tidal waters.

He said that it was still undecided whether chemical substances used against oil slicks were not more dangerous than the oil.

Germany could be hit by an oil disaster at any time because supertankers used German ports constantly, Professor Gerlach said.

He called on politicians to promote the fight against oil pollution on an international scale and to make use of Ca-

Continued on page 9

Nile fish can save a city

The Nile pike, only 20 cm long, provides absolutely reliable information on the quality of drinking water.

The Egyptian tester emits electric impulses of 0.08 volts which are amplified by electronic devices and monitored. As long as the pike feels well in its pond, its pulse rate is between 400 and 800 electric impulses a minute. But as soon as the water is contaminated by poisonous substances, the pulse frequency drops to less than 200.

The electronic system monitoring the pike sounds an alarm and can turn off the entire water supply of a city.

Biological checks on drinking water have been in use by the waterworks of many major German cities for several years. The crawfish, trout, carp and goldfish used must be watched constantly and fed at least once a day.

But not so the Egyptian pike *gnatonemus petersi*. All that is needed for monitoring it are two metal plates in the pond which register the electric impulses and conduct them to an amplifier.

This in turn conducts the information (even over long distances) to the waterworks centre. Moreover, the pike can manage without food for at least a week.

The remarkable properties of the Nile pike were discovered by a Franconian company, and the city of Göppingen is already using the fish to protect the public from contaminated drinking water.

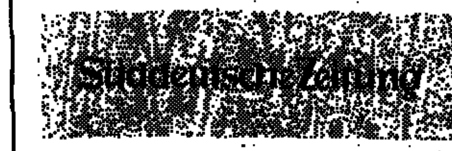
Waterworks Director Wolfgang Berge praises the little fish for the minimal care it needs and says he has never known a better form of control. *rr*

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 13 November 1978)



ENERGY

Leonberg shows alternatives to conventional heating



A savings bank has given the energy-saving business a shot in the arm by organising the Leonberg Energy Show, hoping to shake both business and the public out of their lethargy.

The sum of 4. 35 billion deutschemarks will be available in grants or tax relief to home-owners introducing energy-saving measures under legislation passed this summer after a tough tug-of-war. The legislators dragged their feet to such an extent that applications for grants are only trickling in because the public does not fully trust the new measures.

Says savings bank director Helmut Nietzer: "We would like to stimulate proper use of energy and provide a review of the many possible sources."

But there is another motive behind the show: The savings bank would like to explore innovations in energy and find out which can be considered safe collateral for loans.

There can be no doubt about the usefulness of insulation. Heat obtained from oil, gas, coal or by electricity is wasted in the following ways: 37 per cent escapes through windows, 35 per cent trough outer walls, 15 per cent through roofs, and 13 per cent trough basements.

There can also be no question over the effectiveness of improvements in heating systems and remote heating. But things become somewhat more complicated where installations for the recycling of heat, solar energy plants and heat pump systems are concerned.

Though research is going flat-out, tested equiqment is already being mass produced, and the number of experimental and demonstration systems is rapidly increasing, mass application still lags.

Why do builders and home owners hesitate? Because installations based on solar energy alone, or operating only on heat obtained from household sewage, or only on heat taken from the environment heat pumps are still too costly to pay for themselves within a reasonable time.

A way out of the dilemma would be an optimal combination of all systems, taking the siting of the house Ininto account and based primarily on improved heat storage techniqes.

The more heat collected in the summer through solar collectors and heat pumps taking heat from ground, air and water, the longer it will be possible to use this heat in autumn and winter without resorting to conventional heating, which in our latitudes we shall never be able to do without entirely.

The Leonberg energy show also provided a small pilgrimage to research institutes and demonstration plants for alternative energy production.

The "Junkers Tri-Therm House" in Wernau, near Göppingen, operates on a combination of solar energy from roof collectors and a heat pump sucking up air, withdrawing its heat and discharging cold air outside the house. A computer in the basement decides which heating system is most economical at a given moment.

On very cold and cloudy days (the combination of the two is rare) a conventional heating system is turned on.

The Junkers system also takes heat from drain water before using it to flush toilets, something which could become a genereal necessity once we face water shortages.

Heat pumps withdraw heat from air, soil, the water table and, in the case of a refigerator food. This is passed on at a higher temperature for heating. The pumps are operated by electric, gas or diesel engines and use only one-third of the energy required for conventional heating.

Burning oil or gas in an engine instead of in a heater provides three times as much heat – especially when the engine's waste heat is also used.

Particularly interesting are the combinations of systems. For instance, using a gas engine during the day and an electric motor running on cheap night electricity.

Simple arithmetic shows how many winters of heating at one-third of normal oil consumption are needed to pay for the installation.

Professor Rummel of Hannover's Technical University demonstrated at the Leonberg energy show that this systems is most effective, though still considered unusual by most home owners. It is also rather expensive in relation to today's oil prices.

To save 50 per cent of the heating oil bill, a one-family home needs a solar colletion area of between 20 and 40sqm. and a water reservoir of three to five cubic meters.

According to Dr Joachim Gretz, in charge of the Euratom solar research programme since 1972, an installation would pay for itself in ten years.

But supporting installation of insulation, floor heating for low temperature operation and a heat pump would shorten this period.

There can be not doubt of the economy of installing a three to six square meter solar collector for hot water in summer. Home owners could turn off their oil heating for several months.

There are ten gas-operated heat pumps for the heating of swimming pools, gymnasiums, schools and apartment houses in operation in West Germany.

Based on several years of experience, Wilfried Handrock, director of the Paderborn public utilities department, says these heating systems pay for themselves within a relatively short time. And once the systems come off an assembly line and oil prices go up, their edge over conventional heating will become even more pronounced.

Among the energy systems unlikely to be used by householders is an experimental pyrolysis installation providing heat from organic waste, demonstrated by Adolf W. Borst at a castle near Göttingen.

Herr Brost uses a substance obtained from horses hearts for the manufacture of carbon filters to obtain gas for the operation of a slightly modified Otto motor.

Herr Borst has specialised in obtaining raw materials from biological substances. An Austrian sawmill, for instance, is soon to use bark to obtain costly active charcoal and usable generator gas.

Biogas obtained from the fermented stable manure of 160 cattle is used for cooking, heating and electricity generating by a monastery in Bavaria.

The engine's waste heat maintains the two fermentation towers at an optimal temperature of 35 to 40 deg.C.

In full operation the system generates 300 cubic meters of gas a day, equalling 2,000 kwh. This is the only one of a dozen installation which survived the flood of cheap oil.

Incidentally, the waste from mass cattle farming in West Germany has become a major environmental problem.

The unconventional methods of obtaining energy of which there has been much talk are intended as an alternative to nuclear energy, in turn considered an alternative to oil since Eisenhower's Atoms for Peace programme of 1953.

Nuclear energy received massive promotion while the development of "soft" energy technology has stagnated. In view of the enormous increase of energy requirements it was considered that soft energy could not contribute much.

Munich physicist Professor Sizmann is, however, conviced that it is wortwhile to consider new ways of using solar energy because it can supply Germany is 80 times the amount of primary energy obtained from oil, coal and uranium in West Germany.

The improvement of alternative energy technology is now being promoted by a measuring programme used to compare 14 solar collectors now on the market. A physicist said it could be taken as a rule of thumb that if one form of energy captured one per cent of the energy market, it would go from success to success. But the "soft" sources of energy had not yet reached this point in Germany.

Christian Schütz

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 10 November 1978)

Continued from page 8

nadian, British and American experience.

Stepped-up research was needed to clarify whether oil seeped into tidal shores and for how long it remained toxic. At present scientists estimate it takes several decades.

Professor Gerlach also called on the Länder to establish an advisory centre to centrally control operations in case of a disaster and provide information on the latest methods.

New charts of German coastal areas with information on sensitive regions, currents, bird sanctuaries and aquaculture were also needed as was a special fund to provide immediate finance for research in case of an oil disaster.

dpa

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 3 November 1978)

Cairo project uses sun to provide cold

West German scientists and engineers have developed a refrigeration plant in Cairo to prove that it is possible to provide cold storage for large quantities of food using solar energy.

Even conventional refrigeration methods frequently use heat to produce cold, as for instance with gas-operated refrigerators, absorbtion air conditioners or low temperature dessication plants.

In cooling through solar energy the collector replaces the heating coil or burner, collects sun-generated energy, transporting that heat through a pipe system and condensing it.

A mixture of ammonia and water is heated by the energy. The low boiling point ammonia, kept at a lower temperature by cooling water, is liquified and the ammonia is conveyed through a valve and system of coils into the refrigeration space, where it evaporates at low pressure. In doing so it withdraws heat from its environment, bringing this down to the required temperature.

The Cairo plant operating on this principle has been commisioned by the German Society for Technical Cooperation (GTZ) and is being built by Dornier and Linde.

The plant has a collection area of 30sqm. on top of a cold storage room of about 10 cubic meters in which food is to be kept at between 0 and 3 deg.C. In addition to the stored food, some 300 kilos of food are to be brought down to refrigeration temperatures within 24 hours.

In tropical and subtropical areas it is possible to obtain up to 1 kwh of energy per day and square meter of solar collector area and convert it into cold.

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 4 November 1978)

Giant windmill to power holiday resort

For the first time in West Germany a project, on the shores of Lake Spaden, near Bremerhaven, is to harness the wind for energy.

Bremerhaven, the Cuxhaven district and the municipality of Schiffdorf have formed a partnership to open up a lakeside recreation area and camping site for 500 near Bremerhaven fueled by an unconventional form of energy. A grant from the federal government is expected.

According to Professor Krishna Simhan, a Bremen University physicist and the head of the project, a wind energy converter with a 52 meter wingspan rotor will supply a heat pump with electricity to harness the heat of the lake water.

Site experiments will first establish the supply of energy. The DM 2 million wind energy plant is to be working by 1980 and is expected to cut the electricity bill by DM 44,000 a year.

According to Bonn Research Minister Dr. Volker Hauff, it is expected that work on harnessing solar energy and operating solar generators will boost overall economic develeopment.

Dr. Hauff was visiting an AEG-Telefunken plant in Wedel, near Hamburg, which works on the transformation of solar energy into electricity. The project is subsidised by the federal government.

(Lübecker Nachrichten, 29 October 1978)

■ CINEMA

Watching the bad dreams inside Fassbinder

The most controversial contribution to the film Germany in Autumn was undoubtedly that of Rainer Werner Fassbinder, an act of self-exposure in every sense which many filmgoers found embarrassing and which some interpreted as an unusual and authentic document of an individual and political crisis.

In an age of half-hearted television realism which reduces diffuse, difficult to formulate emotions to one-dimensional problems, Fassbinder seems to rely increasingly on analysing the very private. After seeing his latest film, *In einem Jahr mit 13 Monden* (In a Year with 13 Moons), made in Frankfurt in July and August this year, we can assume that the sumptuous aestheticism of *Despair — Eine Reise ins Licht* was just an interlude and not typical of the direction in which Fassbinder is moving.

In a Year with 13 Moons takes up directly where Fassbinder's film in Germany in August left off. The title refers to an obscure astrological superstition according to which emotional people are particularly likely to be involved in personal disasters in years which have 13 new moons.

Whereas in *Deutschland im Herbst* Fassbinder only have us a glimpse of one page in his private diary, here he presents us with a whole chapter, confronting us with the most intimate torments of the soul (certainly intensified by his friend's suicide in the spring), but also with the fruits of his recent reading (Schopenhauer's The World as Will and Representation) and cinema knowledge (quotations from Maurice Pialat's film We Won't Grow Old Together).

There is of course also his vision of the city of Frankfurt-on-Main which here, more even than in the play The Rubbish, the Town and Death, comes over as an unbearable urban hell.

The film tells the story of the last five days in the life of Elvira Weishaupt. It is a story which could only take place in Fassbinder's imaginary Frankfurt, a city peopled by the mad, the sick and the perverted.

Elvira used to be called Erwin and worked as a butcher, but her love for a certain Anton Saitz, now one of the most powerful men in the city, made her go to Casablanca to have a sex change.

Saitz no longer plays a part in Elvira's life at the beginning of the film, and her relationship with a stockbroker by the name of Hacker comes to an ugly end. While she whines about her yearning to be stroked and kissed, Hacker leaves what he calls the "fat, repulsive, superfluous piece of flesh." The plump, snivelling Volker Spengler who plays Elvira is draped in women's clothes and is indeed a grotesque rather than an erotically stimulating sight.

Fassbinder is not in the least interested here in the specific problems of people who have sex changes. Elvira Weishaupt only serves as an extreme example of the basic need which all his characters seem to have: the yearning to be loved and the willingness to risk everything for this.

This too is a story of passion, like that of Franz Biberkopf in *Faustrecht der Freiheit* (Fox). For five days and five nights Elvira, accompanied for some of the way by Zora, a hooker, wanders through a jungle of fear, disgust of life and dumb sexual desire, meeting people who have already been destroyed by the city — the strange orphan Seelenfrieda, who has spent eight years in a psychiatric institution and dreams of graveyards; a greyhaired black man, who quickly quotes a few lines of Schopenhauer before hanging himself in a deserted office corridor; an office worker with cancer who has spent 15 months staring in hatred at the high office building of his former boss, Anton Saitz, who sacked him as soon as he found out he was ill; and Anton Saitz himself, an infantile despot, who enacts scenes from old Jerry Lewis films with his cronies.

The scenes are as bizarre as the characters. The film begins in the early dawn light on the banks of the Main, where lonely figures walk around in black leather. Close-ups show nimble tongues licking white flesh. This gay beat is a place not of lust but of need.

There is a long sequence in a Frankfurt slaughterhouse, where Elvira screams the final monologue of Torquato Tasso as repulsive sights fill the screen. Fassbinder transforms a casino near the main railway station into a gambling hell, a place of extreme isolation bathed in red light. The same red appears in the scene with the death-seeking black man. Here the light which appears at regular intervals bathes the figures in an unreal horror landscape.

A Year with 13 Months is indeed a horror film, but its fantastic visions of the end are not alleviated by any cultural consolations. There is more talk in it than in any other Fassbinder film, but the words have lost their meaning. Verbal communication has degenerated to a mere hysterical parlando, an endless monologue to which no one is ever listening.



Mirror to violence: Volker Spengler as Erwin who become Elvira in Casablanca is roughed up by Karl Scheyd in a scene from Rainer Werner Fassbinder's In a Year with 13 Moons. (Photo: Filmverlag der Autoren)

In the last sequence in the film — Elvira is already lying dead in her flat — the superimposed texts become incomprehensible. In another sequence, red Zora (played by Ingrid Caven) switches between three TV programmes, one a report on Pinochet's Chile, another a French film by Maurice Pialat, and the third an interview with Rainer Werner Fassbinder.

The filmgoer only understands parts of all this and Fassbinder does nothing to help with this chaos. The confusion in his own head, the disordered juxtaposition of fear, rage and snivelling is transferred direct to the screen.

It is appropriate to this style of work that Fassbinder, for the first time, does the camerawork himself, no longer needing a mediator between his consciousness and the material (though it is astonishing how little difference there is between his camera style and tht of his regular cameraman, Michael Ballhaus; the same aesthetic meticulousness, the same clever perspectives and reflections, the same technical perfection with which Fassbinder seems to defend himself against a total breakdown.)

In a Year with 13 Moons is Fassbinder's most radical film, and many who see it will find it too strong, a piece of effrontery. Fassbinder lays the garish bad taste on thick (someone masturbates to a Christmas carol, a Jewish profiteer uses the codeword Bergen-Belsen) but it seems less out of place than ever before.

The real shock effect of the film results from the brutal directness with which Fassbinder fires his phantasies and obsessions at the filmgoer — a bad dream from which we cannot quickly awake.

Hans G. Blumenberg

(Die Zeit, 10 November 1978)

No bouquets for Lübeck offerings

This year was the 20th anniversary of the Nordic film festival in Lübeck, the most relaxed and pleasant film festical in West Germany.

The programme this year was full: ten feature films, 14 short and documentary films, almost all German premieres of works from Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden. Then there was a comprehensive retrospective on the early work of Ingmar Bergman, and a section on what is still known as the New German Film.

Much as one would like hand out bouquets, there was not much to rave about apart from the Bergman retrospective, well worth seeing. Most of the films were well-intentioned rather than well done. To judge by the films shown here, our Nordic neighbours are mainly concerned with analysing personal problems and environmental problems in documentaries and features.

There are pathetic complaints about God and the western world (in Who Gives the Orders Around here from Norway and Charly and I from Denmark). The world of women is shown in a gloomy and in no sense illuminating perspective (The Revelation, from Norway and One and One, Sweden).

The Scandinavian film also goes back to the simple 50s, when it attempts to describe the problems and needs of youth (Mackan and Bluff Stop, from Sweden) or naively indulges in anarchistic light-heartedness (You are not alone, from Denmark).

Even Tage Danielsson, the charming Swedish nonsense film director who had two of the biggest hits of previous festivals with his comedies The Apple War and The Man Who Stopped Smoking, was disappointing this year. His Set the Prisoners Free, Spring Is Here is a pleasant enough piece of nonsensical grotesque comedy for its first third, but Danielsson then seems to run out of steam, the gags wear thin and the filmgoer is left with the sorry sight of a balloon slumping to the ground after a bright and promising start.

The clinically constructed thriller Man on the Roof by Bergman's former opponent Bo Widerberg is an unqualified success. A dying policeman is brutally murdered in a hospital, and a detective tries to reconstruct the life of his unpopular colleague. Slowly a picture of a human rat emerges, a man whose everyday tricks and murderous actions were covered up by his uniform and the mindless solidarity of the police force. It is a superb and masterfully produced thriller, reminiscent of Melville's Western of the Night.

The shorts and documentary films, which seem to be going through crisis throughout the world, made no great impression at Lübeck. There is a good and long tradition among the environmentally conscious Scandinavians for people, animals and nature. But films on these subjects this year were not quite satisfactory.

The Finnish film 13 Days of Life is a depressing account of the everyday life of unemployed Finnish youths, but the filmic techniques used are inappropriate. It is not enough to point the camera at the mostly taciturn youths and carry the film forward by asking leading questions.

You and Your Fur Coat, a Norwegian short film, was astonishingly naive. Scenes of almost unimaginable cruelty to animals on Norwegian mink farms are constantly interrupted by images of women in fur coats laughing inanely.

The commentary is of the sermonising kind, warning these women about their vanity and promising a decent world only when people learn to conquer such weaknesses.

Instead of attacking those responsible for this scandalous state of affairs, the film preaches in irritating style and absurd morality of asceticism.

To sum up this year's festival: 1978 was not a brilliant year. There was plenty of poor stuff, a lot of passable, average work and the highpoints were provided by the works of old masters Bergman and Widerberg.

Uta Gola

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 8 November 1978)

■ CULTURE

London turns back the clock on Germany

Everyone seems to be fascinated by German culture these days. The Paris exhibition Paris—Berlin 1900—1933 started it all.

Although the 20s in Berlin have long been familiar, if not a cliché, there was still much to be discovered. Thanks to this exhibition, French intellectuals have for the first time become aware of entire stylistic movements and the response has even had a political effect.

The image of the eternal German which the Paris exhibition attacked has changed to something more attractive, and even fraternal in spirit.

The Paris exhibition is probably without equal for intellectual planning and effect. But London does not intend to play second fiddle. Even the farthest suburban tube stations have the striking Goethe Institute poster: London—Berlin — The Twenties Meet The Seventies.

The title sounds rather like an imitation of the Paris success, but this is not the intention. The London perspectives on the Berlin of the 20s and of today have their own British angle.

The Goethe Institute, which is organising this intimidating autumn exhibition of German culture as part of its 20th birthday celebrations, has spread its impressive series of events throughout London.

The German embassy had the good idea of presenting the works of German artists living in London at its newly-opened building, but the original intention to keep out large numbers of people for security reasons was criticised and the plan was dropped.

The art world in the more restricted sense will probably be most interested in three exhibitions being opened this week and next: Neue Sachlichkeit and German Realism of the Twenties at the Hayward Gallery, Eleven Artists Working in Berlin at the Whitechapel Gallery, and Berlin a Critical View — Hässlicher Realismus 1920 und 1970. The last is officially supported by the Berlin Senate, whereas the private exhibition at the Whitechapel Gallery is a competitor. Internal artistic feuds from Berlin are being fought out in London and add spice to the exhibitions. There was a fear that it might all be too much of a good thing. The Goethe Institute, the Hayward Gallery and the Whitechapel Galleries are not the only institutes putting on events dealing with the Twenties. Apart from its exhibition of Berlin art, the Institute of Contemporary Arts is holding a series of discussions of the intelligentsia and politics, proving how strongly what was originally intended as an information service has impressed the London intellectual scene.

When the very impressive exhibition of Otto Dix drawings from World War One and the documents on the Cagliari film end, followed by by an impressive documentation on the Weimar Republic, the entire early 20th century in Germany seems to be let loose. If we include the very fine caricature exhibition at the Fisher Fine Art Gallery on the work of Karl Arnold, too long in the shade of John Heartfield, or Mies van der Rohe and the Bauhaus in the Building Centre Trust, or Johannes Baader, George Grosz, Hannah Höch und Raoul Haussmann in the Annely Juda Fine Art Gallery, and the exhibition on social housing in the Weimar Republic at the Architectural Association, then it can be said that London is now receiving the boldest coaching in German art and history that has ever taken place here.



Otto Dix's Three Street Women, 1925, on show in London as part of the Goethe Institute's celebration of its 20th birthday. (Photos: Katalog)

Even ten years ago, this would have seemed too much. Even when the German Month was held four years ago, the whole thing was a German affair. Since then we have seen the breakthrough of the new German film, represented by directors such as Herzóg, Fassbinder and Wenders.

The psychological and artistic consequences of their work abroad is still underestimated here. The themes of their films have so to speak intensified the German face of Europe.

Since then there has also been the major London exhibition on surrealism, as a result of which England realised how intellectually isolated it had been for so long and discussed this problem keenly.

In the weeks to come German professors will give talks at the Goethe Institute on German politics and literature in the twenties; at the Institute of Contemporary Arts, German emigrants and Englisch left-wingers will talk about the relationship between political commitment and art and about anarchism in the Federal Republic of Germany; the London Film Institute will be showing German films of the 20; and the Goethe Institute will be showing political influential films of the early thrities.

The *Times Literary Supplement* has not only drawn its readers' attention to the 'Caligarisms' of events in the British capital, it even included in its last bulky special issue on German literature the first English translation of Kleist's famous essay on puppet theatre.

All this is only possible as a result of a basic change: cultural England is for the first time showing interest in European culture, of which the Germany of the 20s seems most representative.

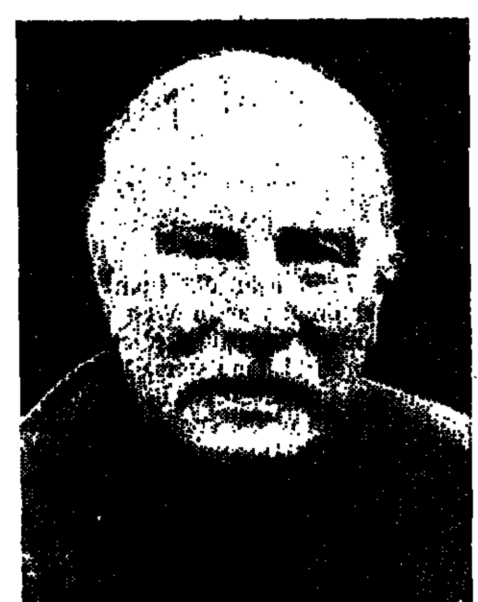
The amazing richness of literary and artistic production, and especially the political aggressiveness of German artists which has no parallel in England, is now revealed to the younger British generation. It is not presented as mere cultural history or even archeology, but as of specific relevance to today: the political movement in England, which in certain moments is ahead of European history, is yet again brimming with possibilities. The socialist model, which seems to have lost its impetus in many places, is still on the programme for the future here. This sense of political alternatives (and many English intellectuals' realisation of this) is probably the reason why the many examples of German avant garde work and the provocative questions they ask have found a public never before so receptive to these things. People are becoming more political in England just at a time when Germany's intellectual left is becoming defeatist.



Self-portrait by Max Beckmann, 1927, on show in London. (Photos: Katalog)

Karl Heinz Bohrer

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 13 November 1978)



Martin Held: reveals enough on stage (Photo: dpa)

Martin Held's genius still alive at 70

Martin Held who celebrated his 70th birthday recently, has never been a favourite of the gossip coloumnists: he avoids the limelight, dislikes questions about his private life and is rather shy.

Held lives quietly, avoiding publicity. In the evenings, when he acts (and he acts every evening), he reveals enough figures, characters and views of life; otherwise he keeps himself to himself. Held has never been one to make statements about himself, and in this respect he is not modern, and this does him credit.

Held comes from Berlin, where he once worked as an apprentice at Siemens, in the evenings acting in amateur theatre groups. When he approached Leopold Jessner, director of the Republican State Theatre, the man immediately recognised his potential and talent and took him on as a pupil.

For a short time Held worked with Piscator before he was spotted in Frankfurt. The Boleslav Barlog took him on in Berlin without having seen him act.

Held was a failure in his debut at the Schiller theatre, and things only changed when he played Wehrhahn alongside Käthe Dorsch. This was when the critics and the Berlin theatre-going public first realised his talents. Since then he has been our best character actor; *The Times* has even described him as the greatest in Europe.

Held works at his parts like a builder. He is a truth fanatic, so totally involved in each part that one hardly recognises him at first sight. He gives his intuition full rein and the brilliance of his imagination comes into play.

No-one has played Sternheim as well. No-one has understood Anouilh's elegant frivolity and played it as well as Held. He was with good reason Körtner's favourite actor, and is a born actor of Chekhov. He was unforgettable in Hasenclever's *Ein besserer Herr.* He can be irresistibly comic and at the same time bitterly satirical.

He has the clown in him. As a Shakespearean king he can rage tragically, and under Beckett's directorship he played Krapp in the Last Tape so convincingly that he had the audience at his feet in all European capitals. He puts such force into an interpretation, he is such a powerfully persuasive actor, that only a few can match him these days.

Friedrich Luft

(Die Welt, 10 November 1978)

■ MEDICINE

Prostate cancer No. 3 killer – and still an unknown

Some 7,300 men die from prostate cancer every year in West Germany and the disease is in third place as a killer after bronchial and stomach cancer, a conference in Munich has been told.

The subject of the congress organised by the Munich Tumour Centre, was the diagnosis and treatment of prostate tumours, and the spirit of Julius Hackethal, West Germany's medical rebel, was present throughout. As Dr Egbert Schmiedt, director of the urological clinic in Grosshadern put it, the meeting aimed "to put certain things claimed by a certain gentleman into perspective."

About 15,000 prostate cancer cases, mostly in a late stage, are diagnosed every year. Prostate cancer shows no symptoms in the early stages.

The state of medical knowledge means treatment is restricted to palliative measures, including radiation and hormonal therapy with estrogen and, in most instances, the removal of testes tissue.

Herr Schmiedt stressed that there were many questions regarding the treatment of prostate cancer.

Urologist R. Nagel, of Berlin, said prostate cancer was "one of the most

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problematic urological tumours." All participants agreed that early diagnosis was of paramount importance.

Rectal palpation, the palpating of the prostate gland through the rectum, Herr Schmiedt said, made it possible to diagnose 90 per cent of prostate cancer cases.

Prostate tissue was removed by needle biopsy. With one of the two practised methods the physician obtains a piece of tissue and, with the other, a few individual cells to be examined for malignancy under a microscope.

According to P. Faul, Memmingen, needle biopsy is rather complicated and the patient must be told of the possibility of complications, such as prostate inflammations or haemorrhaging.

Unlike West Germany, the Swedes, who developed the method, use only the fine needle biopsy system with which individual cells are removed for examination. This method, according to J. Zajicek of Stockholm, though complicated for the doctor is easier on the patient.

The controversy over the two types of biopsy demonstrated the problems facing medicine.

Following involved lectures on specialised examination techniques such as computer tomograms and "nuclear diagnosis," discussion revolved around things a layman would consider self-evident.

"We should be familiar with both biopsy methods," said Herr Schmiedt, "but there are many shortcomings in this field."

There were too few centres where doctors could learn the techniques and, in the case of fine needle biopsy, 40 per cent of the cells obtained were useless.

Dr Zajicek said he felt it was his shortcoming not to have demonstrated how to prepare the cells for microscopic examination.

It was only possible to distinguish between a good and a bad specimen through the microscope.

Participants denied that biopsy led to metastases. According to Dr Zajicek, both animal experiments and follow-up checkups of 500 patients five years after a biopsy allowed no metastases.

Dr Schmied said he knew of no case in medical literature where a biopsy had caused metastases.

Munich pathologist Max Eder said any kind of cancer spreads cells into the blood stream and leads to metastases even without manipulation.

A slow-growing "peaceful cancer" could not be turned into a fast-growing malignant tumour by manipulation. Dr Eder said there were two types of cancer: the fast-growing "aggressive" tumour, the cells of which had virtually no similarity with prostate tissue, and a slow-growing tumour almost identical with prostate tissue. Only biopsy could determine the type of tumour.

On diagnosing a localised slow-growing tumour, the therapy consists of waiting, said W. Mauermayer, Munich. The patient had to be fully informed and agree to this course of action.

Herr Mauermayer said surgery was the only curative method, used with men in generally good physical condition and below the age of 70. A precondition to surgical removal of the prostate gland was that the tumour was restricted to the gland and that no secondary tumours existed.

Following an operation most men become impotent, less than ten per cent also becoming incontinent. Over 60 per cent survived the operation for more than ten years. Herr Mauermayer said that radiation provided a possible alternative.

F. H. Schröder, Rotterdam, said there was no proof of any treatment prolonging the life of a prostate patient. Proof could only be provided through control groups.

But a study, showed that of 136 patients who underwent conservative treatment, one-third died of cancer. Of 310 patients treated with radiation, 20 per cent died of the disease. And of 121 patients who underwent surgery, five per cent died of cancer.

These figures, he said, refuted the argument that manipulation greatly increased the risk because fewer patients died following a combination of examinations and surgical removal of the prostate than following any other type of treatment.

Renate Jäckle

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 10 November 1978)

Cancer book adds fuel to dispute

In his latest book Don't be Afraid of Cancer, surgeon and orthopaedist Professor Julius Hackethal continues his dispute with the German Medical Association.

At a Hanover press conference on 2 November, Professor Hackethal called on the head of the German Cancer Fund, Dr Mildred Scheel, to resign.

He also accused Dr Scheel of representing the interests of the "violent disciples of traditional medicine" rather than those of people threatened by and suffering from cancer.

He said he would take legal action against Dr Scheel.

Professor Hackethal held that it was above all prophylactic checkups for prostate cancer which turned the "domestic animal cancer" into a dangerous predator.

He announced that he would form an organisation as a counter to the Cancer Fund called "Action Pro Patient," and that he intends to fight cancer with his "Eubios strategy", the aim being to engage in cancer prevention by sensible living.

A further aim was to reform the German health system in a way that would instil patients with confidence in their doctors and stop the doctor from being after the patient's money.

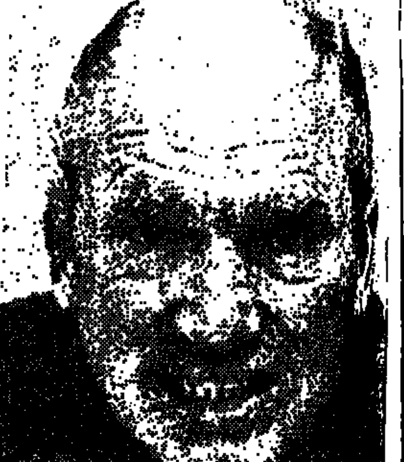
According to Professor Hackethal, German doctors earn an annual DM2 billion by diagnosing cancer and another DM5 billion by cancer therapy, without visible success.

Dr Mildred Scheel has not commented on Professor Hackethal's censure and call for her resignation.

A Cancer Fund spokesman said Dr Scheel refused to discuss any of Hackethal's attacks.

dpa

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 3 November 1978)



Dr Julius Hackethal: a thorn in the flesh which doctors need? (Photo: Sven Simon)

Dr Hackethal doesn't raise all hackles

Not all doctors view Professor Julius Hackethal, the outspoken critic of the medical profession, as a disciple of the devil — not even all urologists.

According to Professor Wolfgang Mauermayer, head of a Munich urological clinic "no matter how one looks at it, he has set something in motion which can only be beneficial in the long run."

"The man is a thorn in the flesh wich we doctors need. It would be too easy to brush him aside as a psychopath," he says.

Professor Mauermayer, a urologist of 30 years' standing who has done thousands of prostate operations, goes on: "Hackethal's attacks are exaggerated, but they have managed to shake many urologists out of their lethargy.

"There is no such thing as a harmless therapy or operation, and we at our clinic make a point of informing the patients accordingly." Impotence is almost inevitable.

Professor Mauermayer says Professor Hackethal's main function has been to make the public aware of prostate cancer, although he considers fear of diagnosis and checkups disastrous: "Those who know the frightful final stages, also know what it means to be faced with the fact that most of the 150 patients a year reach our hospital when they can no longer be treated, or when treatment is very difficult."

Professor Mauermayer sees the main problem in the correct early diagnosis. "Palpating with the finger is inadequate and there is no way of getting around a biopsy — a procedure which has to be thoroughly learned."

Forty per cent of biopsy specimens presented by German urologists are useless because, as Professor Mauermayer puts it, "my collegagues don't know how to handle the needle."

Kassel radiologist Professor Ernst Krokowski goes further than the Munich urologist. He opposes both biopsy methods used at present; "I have found that biopsies lead to metastases."

Professor Krokowski favours palpation only, which can be repeated after six months in case of a suspected tumour due to its very slow growth. He also favours ultrasonic examination.

Irmi Schwartz

(Münchner Merkur, 7 November 1978)

■ TEACHING

An academic guide to the politics of sex education

How much sex education should be taught remains a controversial subject among social scientists and educationists, teachers and parents.

The main reason why sex education is so hotly debated is that a determined minority of West German teachers decided to use it as the starting point for a campaign to change opinions on the family, marriage, and society itself. Doctors, teachers and parents began to organise resistance to these moves and sex education became a mayor area of conflict, the significance of which goes far beyond school and theory.

The Federal Constitutional Court in Karsruhe recently ruled that "individual sex education is in the first place the natural right of parents but the state has the right to teach sex education in the school." The court distinguished between two areas — on the one hand, "pure information about facts" and the "mere communication of knowledge." Here the Karlsruhe judges negate in principle "an influence on the basis of the rights of parents." On the other hand, they talk about "sex education proper," which "should make possible morally-based forms of behaviour in in the area of sexuality." This is not in the court's view "dependent on the parents' consent."

The ruling meant a limitation of parental influence in the teaching of the biological facts of sex and in instruction

DIE ZEIT

on the social obligations of sex. The Constitutional Court has struck a blow for liberal sex education without opening the doors for such extreme cases as that recorded in Commune II.

Hamburg teacher Karlheinz Lutzmann says progressive sex education has been "banished prematurely to the dark room of everyday school life." Lutzmann led the GEW (Education and Science Union) working group on sex education in Hamburg and is one of the contributors to a recent book on sex education (*Bilanz der Sexualpädagogik*, edited by Hans-Jochen Gamm and Friedrich Koch, published by Campus Verlag, Frankfurt.)

The 11 contributors, mainly teachers and academics, belong to the left wing of sex education, with Lutzmann as a moderate trade unionist on one side and Gamm from Darmstadt as a Marxist educationist on the other. There is no pluralism, as one might expect from a resume, no overview of controversial research results, not even an analysis of the immense amount of literature on the subject.

There is no doubt that this book is scientifically one-sided. But the editors, Gamm and Friedrich Koch , a professor of education in Hamburg, also limit the subject matter in terms of content. Their resume contains neither an article on the legal position nor a statement on the various political positions. Instead, more than half of the nine essays concentrate on historical aspects and developmental tendencies. Only one specific analysis gives us any indication of the state of sex education in schools today.

The results of a poll in Hamburg in 1973 show that in the first year of primary school there is a "high deficit in sex education." Only 19 per cent of pupils had up to five hours of teaching a year. After this things get better and the trend continues into the secondary modern and technical schools. In the seventh to tenth classes of grammar schools the subject is "criminally ignored," says Karlheinz Lutzmann.

More than two-thirds of these pupils are not taught anything in school about the subject. On the basis of this empirical research he says that sex education in Hamburg has "now died a quiet death."

This is the basic tenor of the book — resignation. In his essay, by far the most important, Günter Amendt, executive member of the German Sex Research Institute, says: "The Restoration has set in even in the minutest ramifications of scientific discussion." "The social isolation of a progressive sex education concept" characterised the situation, with "the scientific isolation of its advocates on the one hand and the systematic organisation of a reactionary concept of anti-enlightenment," on the other.

The authors express their disappointment partly in a vulgar terms which disqualify them as scientists (Amendt describes his opponents as "stinking bourgeois" and accuses them of producing pseudo-scientific hocus-pocus), and partly in an incomprehensible technical jargon which reveals them as sectarians: "The genital primacy became a partial instinct sui generis or was relativised to the mere sum of partial instincts."

Resignation, or Gamm's hopes for a millenial conflict-free society in which "living against one another ceases and the first signs of the life of the sexes without domination begin to emerge" do not help the 12 million pupils who need to be taught the facts of life now.

We do not need to go back very far to find the basis for a form of sex education appropriate to the child. It has existed for a decade.

In 1968 the Ministers of Eduction unanimously passed recommendations for sex education (printed in this book), reasonable, cautious and progressive ideas, valid for all Länder.

Even Gamm describes this development as a milestone because the recommendations give as educational goals biological facts and socio-ethical problems (prostitution, homosexuality, promiscuity) and define sex education as an inter-disciplinary problem in which German sociology and the arts have their parts to play.

Hajo Matthiessen

(Die Zeit, 3 November 1978)

■ SOCIETY

Parental care draft bill survives growing pains

Not all the legislation promulgated by coalition SPD-FDP legal reformers in the past decade calls for applause.

There have been major achievements, such as in criminal law, large sections of which have been revamped, and in laws governing the penal system.

Even the compromises foisted on the lawmakers by the Opposition (as in the abortion law) might appear tolerable, and the concessions which liberals had to make to the realities of terrorism were largely unavoidable.

But the stocktaking in family affairs legislation is anything but gratyfying. The reform of the marriage and divorce laws neither helps to preserve marriages worth saving nor facilitates the dissolution of those clearly on the rocks. Moreover, the new laws deter young people from marrying because the consequences of failure have become intolerable.

The reduction of the age of majority from 21 to 18 was also far from satisfactory. The young people this law is supposed to favour have to shoulder added responsibility which they are frequently ill-equipped to bear.

Belief in progress and goodwill alone are hardly the equipment with which to make good laws, which might explain why things have calmed down over the latest and still incomplete item of social-liberal family affairs policy – the amendment of parental care legislation.

During the last legislative period the federal government tabled a draft bill on this which earned it the accusation – stemming not from the matter itself as from the underlying reasoning – of wanting to destroy the sacred core of the family for an ideological concept of progress.

In all seriousness, the authors of the draft wrote: "The infant as well as the juvenile thus (that is, through the existing laws) become the subject of alien rule (by the parents)".

This was a reference to the frightful section 1626 of the Civil Code which places all minors under "parental authority."

The terms "rule" or "authority" have become controversial.

Naturally, the authors of the relevant legislation, dating back to the 19th century, did not have the child-battering father and the nagging mother in mind.

The records of their deliberations show they thought of parents caring for their children. And the term "alien rule" had not been coined – fortunately.

Even today we must still consider the parental right to look after and raise their children as part of natural self-determination within a family.

Had the government made it clear from the beginning that the amendment to the parental care legislation only intended to provide a framework without touching on parental rights, and that its prime object was to provide more effective defences against the abuse of these rights, there would have been much less commotion over the legislation.

The SPD and FDP have meanwhile presented the legal affairs committee of the Bundestag with a number of amendments which should be acceptable to the Opposition.

Essentially, these concern the two controversial and basic questions: the extent to which custody courts can interfere in the child-rearing rights of the parents, and to what extent a child should have a say in parental decisions concerning its welfare.

So far, custody courts have only been able to remove children from parental authority in cases of culpable abuse of this authority (neglect or maltreatment of the child or moral turpitude on the part of the parents).

Culpability is to play no role in the future, the only criterion being the endangering of the mental, emotional or physical well-being of the child.

An emergency brake has been built in for impetuous custody judges: a child can only be separated from its family "if the danger cannot be averted in any other way – not even by public assistance."

The following wording of the original draft bill shows how inadvisable it is to attempt to regulate family relations by law: "If a child is an a position to assess its own affairs, this has to be taken into account by parents in exercising their parental authority."

Such a formulation can decide nothing but can cause endless disputes between parents and children.

Almost every juvenile goes through periods when he is convinced that he is in a better position than his parents to judge his affairs. The extent of this conviction is usually inverse to his judgement.

Here, too common sense has prevailed. The "vocational or educational counsellor" to be consulted over differences of opinion on the suitable training of a young person has been scrapped.

The retreat of the SPD-FDP avant garde of the parental care legislation reform shows they were under the influence of the anti-authoritarian concept of upbringing, which has meanwhile become obsolete.

Perhaps the children of some of them have meanwhile reached and overcome the difficulty stage – as has the draft bill itself.

Hans Schueler

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 1 November 1978)

Alarming facts from latest adoption study

In the most extensive study of adoption processings carried out in West Germany, sociologist Dr Annecke Napp-Peters, of Hamburg University has arrived at alarming conclusions.

More than half of the children put out for adoption are given away because their mothers, mostly unmarried, are forced to work and their financial position is too insecure to provide for children.

The majority of these mothers have no qualifications, and only very few can count on support from the father.

In about 35 per cent of cases the fathers are unknown. And when they are known, they either fail to meet their support obligations or break off all contact with the mother even before the child is born.

Dr Napp-Peters surveyed 64 adoption agencies operated either by municipalities or a church (half of all agencies in West Germany). She interviewed 118 social workers, 1,362 children released for adoption and their parents, as well as prospective adoptive parents.

For every child put up for adoption, there are six prospective adoptive parents whose backgrounds have already been checked.

Says Dr Anneke Napp-Peters: "They have to put up with absolutely inadequate assistance. What is needed is not financial support – as for instance in the form of child-raising subsidies – but above all expert help that would make it easier for parents and children to grow into a family."

Although the 1977 adoption law gives adoptive parents a right to specialist counselling and assistance, the majority of adoption agencies still hold that adoptive parents neither need or want assistance.

After analysing the chances of adoption, selection methods and brokerage practices of agencies, Dr Napp-Peters concludes: that the decisions of social workers are rarely based on professional standards, being largely influenced by personal views.

"The assessment of a couple's suitability as adoptive parents is frequently governed by the hunches, prejudices and antipathies of the social worker concerned."

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 4 November 1978)

Youth assistance reform revamps welfare law

The federal government's new youth assistance reform is intended to revamp the 1922 youth welfare law.

In many areas the new law will create no new conditions, but will only provide the legal framework for new practices in youth assistance.

Family Affairs Minister Antje Huber's draft bill has at least managed to take the Cabinet hurdle on which her predecessor Katharina Focke foundered in 1974. Focke's project would have cost considerably more.

Even so, the draft will cause disputes because youth assistance falls under the Länder and municipalities and is paid for by them.

The basic principle of the draft bill is to offer child-rearing assistance to parents and children without foisting it on them.

Counselling offices are to be increased to provide one for every 50,000 people. The agencies are to be staffed by social workers, psychologists and educationalists and should preferably offer assistance before trouble occurs.

The draft bill gives priority to child-rearing within the family. Only if there is no option is a child to be taken away from the family and foster parents are to be preferred to institutions.

At present 76,000 children are being brought up in homes and 66,000 by foster parents. The objective is to provide a larger number of foster families with improved counselling and uniform foster parent fees.

A place in an institution costs five times as much as upbringing in a foster family.

Although it will never be possible to scrap institutions altogether, they should be reduced in size and divided into small groups to provide children with something resembling a family.

Hilde Purwin

(Neue Ruhr Zeitung, 10 November 1978)

Childhood's deadliest ailment

Hannoversche Allgemeine

Some 6,000 children are treated in West German hospitals every year after being battered by their parents, the congress of the Hesse Radiologists Society in Lahn-Giessen has been told by Professor Werner Schuster, head of the radiology department at the university clinic in Lahn-Giessen.

The diagnoses include broken and chipped bones, haemorrhaging and concussions. One child in ten dies from a battering. The number of deaths exceeds those from infectious diseases such as measles, whooping cough, diphteria and scarlet fever.

Radiologists who see this problem every day conclude from the injuries. "The battering is almost always done with the bare hand or first. Injuries by hard objects are relatively rare."

Data has been collected by radiologists throughout West Germany and evaluated by the forensic medicine institute at Berlin's Free University.

The study not only contains diagnoses but also the social background of victims where it could be eestablished, making it possible to show the relation between child battering and social status.

The old prejudice that it is primarily among the poor that infants are battered is disproved.

Middle and upper-middle class families are slightly ahead on the child battering scale.

Since the number of cases in cities is larger than in rural areas, it is possible to track down the reasons for infant battering.

Professor Schuster says: "It is quite obvious that even infants are victims of the rat race and the nervous strain that goes with it. The stress of everyday life is the harder to bear the less individual scope each member of the family has. A baby can act as a spark that will ignite the powder keg in the confines of a city apartment."

The conclusion that it is usually a sort of short-circuit reaction that leads to baby battering to the point where the infant has to be hospitalised is borne out by the prevailing injuries.

"These injuries," Professor Schuster says, "are typical of blows with the bare hand or fist. The so-called 'centrifugal trauma' so frequently found in battered infants is also typical. It occurs when a baby is thrown by an enraged parent.

"People acting in such a way usually do so when they have lost control of themselves; anybody premeditating battering would use some sort of instrument."

Foreign workers are almost never among the child batterers. Professor Schuster attributes this to the difference in their attitude towards children.

The radiologists appealed to the public to inform the authorities of the slightest suspicions of infant battering. Professor Schuster says: "Infant and child battering is most likely to be repeated. An enraged parent who has done so once will probably do so again."

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 9 November 1978)

■ SPORT

Moscow Olympics turns the spotlight on politics



The question many people are now asking is similar to that posed before the World Cup in Argentina: should be boycott the Moscow Olympics in 1980?

This will be the first time in the history of the Olympic Games that they are held in an East bloc country. The games are the world's major sporting spectacle and have now become the object of a political debate.

It is still not certain whether the West will take part in what the East bloc countries describe as "the first Olympic games in a Socialist country."

Britain's Foreign Minister David Owen has even hinted that from the British point of view a boycott would be conceivable if the USSR did not change its attitude on the human rights issue. The list of sporting boycotts, by which one country attempts to punish another, is indeed a long one.

Sporting competition is only possible on the basis of rules accepted by all sides. International sport can only function if there is a general consensus on rules.

Governments and international organisations have recognised the possibilities sport offers and have used it for their purposes. For some, it is a means of continuing the class struggle and proving the superiority of their social system (the East bloc countries); for others it is a chance to awaken national consciousness (the Third World.)

The reason why the sport has become more important is that its entertainment value has increased.

Generally over the past decade sport has become more important and more expensive, so that it can only be financed by state aid. As a result, its dependence on the state increased.

The rules of international sport are constantly changing and they are increasingly determined on the grounds of political expediency. Governments intervene in the administration of world sport, and controversial political problems such as those in South Africa, Rhodesia, China, Taiwan, Israel, Korea and West Berlin are dealt with by governments on the level of sport and lead to reprisals.

The rules of international sporting organisations governing participation are either abolished or changed as a result of massive pressure. Nowadays there is hardly a single international championship which is not boycotted by some country for some reason.

West Berlin in particular is an illustration that political dominate sport. For over 20 years the city was avoided as a venue for international sporting events in accordance with the East bloc doctrine that it is a special political unit and not part of the West Germany.

The participation of the East bloc in the world swimming championships, in August was only assured after countries received a special invitation from the Mayor of Berlin which took account of the city's special status.

The boycott is the ultimate means of achieving one's ends in sport. The real disputes take place on the level of international sporting organisations.

International sporting competitions are organised by the international sports associations, and they decide quite independently of one another who may join.

This can lead to anomalies, Of the 29 sports associations for Olympic events, 17 have Taiwan as a member and nine have the Peoples' Republic of China. South Africa is still represented on 11 international federations.

Important decisions are taken at general meetings of international sporting organisations which are becoming more like political forums all the time.

The vast majority of sports associations are still dominated by the West. Twenty out of 26 presidents of Olympic federations still come from West Europe. The East bloc, usually in alliance with Third World, is insisting on a change of power.

The most impressive sign of this occurred in the International Gymnastics Federation (FIG). At the general assembly in 1976 a vote replaced the president, Arthur Gander of Switzerland, by Juri Titow of the Soviet Union. This swing in Moscow's favour was brought about by the votes of the small sports associations, flown to the assembly at Soviet expense.

The national Olympic committees, and the international sports associations formed a permanent general assembly in 1969 and are the second pillar of international sport.

According to rule 25 of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), they must be "completely independent and autonomous and in a position to resist all forms of religious, political and commercial pressure." Of the 133 national Olympic committees recognised by the IOC very few conform to this ideal picture.

The IOC, as the highest authority in world sport, is the main arena for political disputes. For almost 70 years a committee of kings, princes, barons and industrialists, that is, the wealthy, made sovereign decisions on Olympic matters.

The committee even managed to swim against the political current of the time. The IOC only recognised the division of Germany in 1965, when in Madrid it recognised the GDR as a second German national Olympic committee. And although the Peoples' Republic of China became a member of the UN in 1972 and Taiwan was expelled, the conservative majority within the IOC is still not prepared to follow the UN's example.

This does not mean that the majority of IOC members still comply with the IOC's now unrealistic rule 10, which says: "IOC members must not from the governments of their country or from individuals receive instructions which tie them in any way or affect the independence of their votes."

German IOC member Willi Daume said of this rule in 1975: "In the past IOC members mainly expressed their own opinions. Nowadays the vast majority of them are the mouthpieces of their governments."

The main struggle revolves around membership of the IOC, founded by Pierre de Coubertin in 1894, whose members are elected at annual general meetings. At the moment there are 89 from only 71 countries. Eighteen countries are doubly represented and 62 countries with national Olympic committees are not represented at all.

There are serious imbalances between continents. Europe with its 39 members of the full assembly has almost the same voting strength as America (19), Africa and Asia (14 each) and Oceania (3). The greatest discrepancy of all is the fact that although it was expelled from the IOC in 1970 South Africa is still represented by IOC member Reginald Honey, elected a life member in 1946. This means Honey can continue to decide on matters affecting the under-represented black Africans.

It is hardly surprising that the East bloc, together with the Third World, is continually making efforts to democratise the IOC. The aim is to create a sporting equivalent of the United Nations in which the progressive majority can change the rules of sport at will and according to political expediency.

The clearer it has become to the East bloc, African and Asian countries that they are not going to get their way in the Western-dominated IOC and the international sports associations in the foreseeable future, the more they try to achieve their aims through Unesco. The 19th Unesco general assembly accepted a proposal by the developing countries and and set up "a provisional international committee for physical education and sport."

The German Sports Association (DSB) has found out to its cost the strength of the tendencies towards the nationalisation of sport. Sporting relations with the East bloc are dealt with over a yearly calendar which the DSB works out with the individual states. It is no longer the clubs and sports associations that arrange fixtures, but the DSB and a government ministry (in the case of the USSR). DSB chairman Willi Weyer says they have to put up with these things because the annual calendar includes fixtures in West Berlin.

Until 1980 the Russians will no doubt hold back with their demands for a "new world sports order," to avoid endangering the Moscow Olympics. After that we can expect a general offensive.

It is to be feared that the virus of nationalisation will spread and lead to a general paralysis of international sport. Soon those who want to play or not play sport with other countries because of issues such as the class struggle, human rights, mutual diplomatic recognition and racial discrimination will no longer meet with opposition.

Günter Deister

(Die Zeit, 10 November 1978)

Can Daume be next IOC head?

Willi Daume, 65, a member of the International Olympic Committee, has announced that he intends to stand for the IOC presidentcy.

Elections to replace Lord Killanin will be held at the 83rd full IOC assembly in mid-July 1980, shortly before the Olympic games in moscow. Lord Killanin, 64, who succeeded Avery Brundage as president in 1972, is not standing for re-election, mainly because of poor health.

Daume, president of the German national Olympic committee, has been criticised in the past for his "hesitancy." He had to be virtually pressed into standing as candidate for the vice-presidency in 1972. He was elected Killanin's deputy with a convincing majority, and this time is leaving the 89 members of the IOC in no doubt that he is available if they want him.

It is difficult to assess Daume's chances of being the first German elected to the highest office in sport in Moscow in 1980. The former Olympic athlete (1936) and president of the German Sport Association (from 1950 to 1970) organised the 1972 Munich Olympics brilliantly. He is considered as the man who best understands the problems of sport on a committee short on outstanding personalities.

The fact that Daume is organising an Olympic congress in Baden-Baden in 1981 could be in his favour. The purpose of this congress is to decide the direction of international sport into the 1980s.

Daume has not been a member of the IOC executive, the centre of decisions and information within the IOC, since 1976, which is a disadvantage. It is known that Lord Killanin has his reservations about Daume. On the other hand, Daume has his reservations about the president of the IOC. And apart from this it is certainly no advantage for the Dortmund-born, Munich based industrialist that he is German.

In the past years Daume has attempted to overcome all these handicaps with cautious flying diplomacy. He is a regular visitor to Moscow, where his advice is highly appreciated.

Lord Killanin would obviously like Canadian IOC member James Worrall to be his successor. The 64-year-old lawyer from Toronto is considered a pragmatist who can get his way.

Worrall, who like Daume took part in the 1936 Olympics, is not showing his hand. Asked if he intended to stand in Moscow, he answered: "Do you believe in evil spirits?" The most ambitious claimant to the IOC throne is generally reckoned to be the Spanish grandee Juan Antonio Samarach. The 56-year-old IOC head of protocol is now Spanish ambassador in Moscow.

Willy Daume has only recently met two of the conditions for becoming IOC president. He now speaks French as well as English. At the last IOC full assembly in Athens last May, French IOC representative Monique Berlioux was impressed by his command of the French language.

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(Bremer Nachrichten, 11 November 1978)